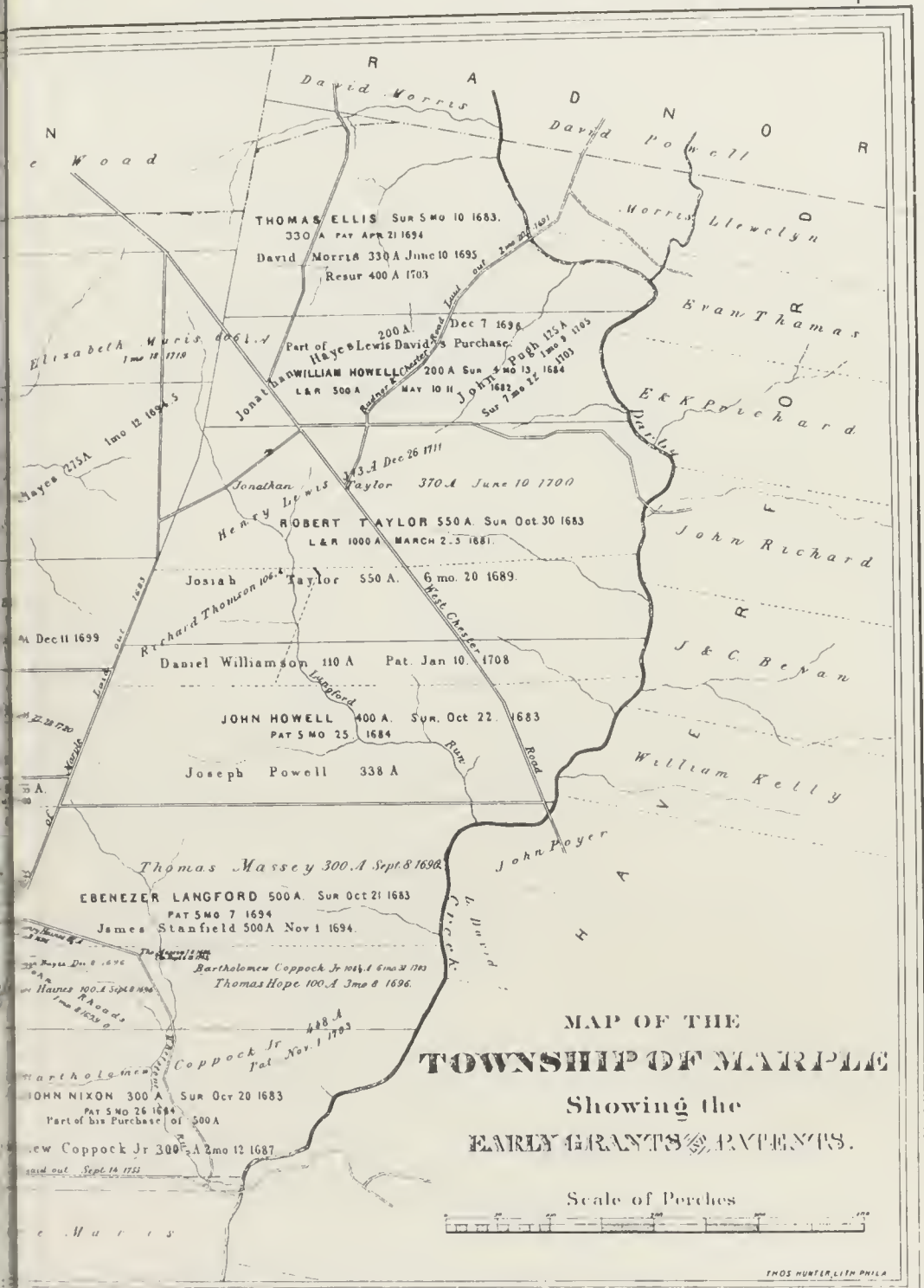


THE FIRST ONE
HUNDRED YEARS . . .

TOWNSHIP
of MARPLE

1684-1784



**MARPLE TOWNSHIP:
THE FIRST 100 YEARS**

by LUCY SIMLER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HILDA LUCAS AND JOHN HALOTA
EDITED BY BONNIE SCOTT

ABOUT OUR AUTHOR

Lucy Simler is a socio economic historian who has spent considerable time working with the colonial Chester County archives. (Marple was originally a part of Chester County.) She is a published author with recent articles appearing in the PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY entitled "The Township: The Community of Rural Pennsylvania" and the WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY "Tenancy in Colonial Pennsylvania: Chester, the Best Poor man's County."

Mrs. Simler is also a fellow at the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies. In addition she is a consultant under a National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) working to process the records of the Court of Common Pleas from Chester County.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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To the Readers of this book:

The celebration of Marple's TriCentennial and the publication of this book represent the end result of many hours of work, some aggravation and great accomplishment. For this, many people have to be thanked for their Birthday gift to our community.

***Lucy Simler, who authored this book and whose love of history and attention to detail coupled with her smiling encouragement and iron determination got this book to publication.

***Hilda Lucas to whom the TriCentennial Celebration and this book represent a major goal accomplished. From the time she helped to preserve the Massey House from destruction, Hilda has worked to make history come alive for others. Researcher, historian, lecturer and photographer she has spent endless time devoted to Colonial America.

***The TriCentennial Committee headed by Edith Callahan gave the community a full year of celebration. Reverend Mark Scheneman and The Marple Newtown Ministerium organized an inspirational Ecumenical Service. June 5, 1984 was the date of the official Birthday Party organized by the Marple Ambulance Corps and Jack Artz. The Country Fair Day that followed took months of planning by the Rotary Club working with Newt Kerber. The Parade capped the year's celebration and was put together by Jan Ceton and the Fire Company. The Friends of the Marple Library and Jeanine Conner with Hilda Lucas sponsored an afternoon tour of old properties in Marple. Other support people contributed to the committee. Franklin Morrison ran the fund raising program, assisted by Alice Wolf and Marilyn McCullough. Peg White put together the program book. Treasurers Irv Zorn and Lewis Hendricks handled the funds with Marie Sofianek serving as secretary and Dave Pope as Co-Chairman of the Committee. And while this "thank you" covers but a few sentences, anyone who has performed these functions for any organization knows how much time and effort is involved.

The publication of this book also involved many people—Frank Eichman, President of Havertown Printing, and Bob Cook of their staff were very patient and helpful, understanding our volunteer efforts and always giving top professional advice. John Halota from the Marple police force painstakingly photographed the original documents. Susan Lucas helped with editorial assistance and local historic expertise. Ed Kiehl designed the front cover and Stephen Metcalf redrew the maps. Doug MacAdam and Richard Fleming of Century 21 MacAdam let me use the copy machine and the office for frequent conferences. The Marple Newtown JayCee chapter donated funds necessary to go to press and certain unnamed business people gave the money necessary for publication.

I also want to acknowledge the special contribution made by two very extraordinary people who are recently deceased. . . .

****Annabell Moffitt was the former President of the Massey House Advisory Board and member of the TriCentennial Committee. She always demonstrated a deep concern for her community, a love of history and found joy in helping to preserve a major part of Marple's history.

****John McCauley was a teacher, historian, farmer—a Renaissance man whose love for fellow man, interest in community and kinship with nature permeated all his deeds.

The experience of helping with the publication of this book and with the planning for the TriCentennial Celebration put me in the company of many very special people—persons who worked hard and gave freely of their time and looked for nothing in return. To be a part of their efforts has been a privilege.

Bonnie Scott

Notes and Acknowledgements

In preparing the sketches for this volume I have relied heavily on biographical files I had already compiled for each of the families who lived in Marple at some time during the one hundred year period, 1683-1784. These files contain data from the probate, land, and tax records, from the records of the Courts which sat at Chester, then the County Seat, and from the minutes of the local churches and meetings, as well as copies of announcements from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of farm sales, lost animals and watches, and runaway servants. They include personal accounts, letters, and vital statistics recorded in the Bibles of the families we are remembering. This material I have not footnoted.

I acknowledge with gratitude both the use of the documents which have provided focus for the vignettes and the works of fellow historians on which I have drawn for supplemental or for background information. In particular I am indebted to John F. Watson. In the early nineteenth century in an effort to preserve the past for future generations, Watson sought out and interviewed a number of ancient citizens including William Worrall, born in Marple. I have only slightly altered Watson's record but have added to it from material in the Day Book of William Worrall found in the Worrall Family File at the Chester County Historical Society at West Chester. Watson's own account of the interview was published in his paper, "Memorials of County Towns and Places in Pennsylvania," published in *Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, Vol. II, Part II (Phila., 1830), 163-165. In 1857, Willis P. Hazard revised and shortened the memoir when he published the "enlarged, with many revisions and additions" edition of *Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, in the Olden Time; being a Collection of Memoirs, Anecdotes, and Incidents of the City and its Inhabitants* by John F. Watson (Phila., 1857), Vol. II, 80-82.

In writing the Quaker Diary I have used the Minutes of the Chester Monthly Meeting, supplemented by the Minutes of the Goshen and Radnor Monthly Meetings. To retain the flavor of the colonial period I have purposely kept to the original language and in most cases merely altered the wording of the entries enough to suggest the writing of a diarist rather than a clerk of meeting. Generally, the archaic terms and phrases are self-explanatory when met in the context. For instance, when a meeting looked into "clearness" before allowing a couple to proceed with their intention to marry, they were checking to determine whether or not impediments to the marriage existed: Were they both Quakers in good standing? Were they free of previous commitments? If they had children by previous marriages, were their rights and inheritances protected? Quakers who moved from one area to another brought "a certificate of removal": a letter of introduction describing their standing as Quakers, and if necessary, noting problems of concern to the meeting. Similarly, individuals who felt called upon "to travel in the truth," that is, to visit distant meetings and speak on matters of concern to Quakers, were given

certificates, introducing them to the meetings to be visited as Quakers held in high regard by the meeting from which they came.

The dating of the diary entries, particularly the slashed dates such as 1715/16, may cause a problem to readers unfamiliar with the calendar in use in the colonies prior to 1752. The Gregorian or "New Style" calendar in general use in continental Europe recognized January 1 as the first day of the year. However, England and her colonies continued to follow the Julian or "Old Style" calendar until 1752. The year "old style" officially began on March 25. There was, therefore, a period of almost three months when the English considered themselves still in the old year and the Europeans saw them as in the new or following year. Recognizing this fact, clerks frequently used a slash date for the overlapping months. A slash was used to separate the year old style from the year new style. This custom had been adhered to in the dates given in this volume for the years when appropriate.

On the other hand, to avoid unnecessary confusion, the Quaker custom of designating months by numbers rather than by their heathen names has not been adopted. For example, dates between December 1718 and April 1719 will be written as follows: December 31, 1718; January 1, 1718/19; March 24, 1718/19. The colonial Quaker would have written them as: 10 mo. 31, 1718; 11 mo. 1, 1718/19; 1 mo. 24, 1718/19, and 1 mo. 25, 1719. He would have seen January as the eleventh month and February as the twelfth.

Lucy Simler

Chapter 1

CELEBRATION

A Celebration: Marple Township 1683-1784

From September of 1983 to September of 1984, Marple Township celebrated the 300th anniversary of its settlement. An anniversary such as this is a time for looking back with appreciation to an earlier age, for searching out and assessing the past. It is a time to pull keepsakes out of attic trunks, to admire the glow of a well-used pewter plate, the luster of old silver, and the simple elegance of a Chester County lowboy. It is a time to look at old photographs, to unfold yellowed letters, and to smooth out crumpled newspapers.

It is a time to visit Marple's Massey House, to walk through the rooms furnished with colonial pieces, to try a loaf of bread baked in the beehive oven, and to imagine when the brick section of the house with an attached log room and kitchen stood alone in the midst of the fields and woodlands. At this time Sproul Road was Marple Street Road, pot holes were ruts and road crews were local farmers, spreading stones from a horse drawn cart, and Thomas Massey measured the thirteen miles from his house to Philadelphia by horseback.

It is also a time to learn about the past—to understand how the original settlers lived; to follow the progress and financial growth of a Marple family from generation to generation. This book is much more than a reminiscence. Rather it is a demonstration of colonial life using actual documents.

As we call up the past, we imagine a slower, simpler tempo of life. We think almost automatically in terms of a self-sufficient, agricultural economy. A farmer plows his field. His young son trudges across the meadow to bring in the cows. Several children work diligently weeding the garden, and an older daughter and her mother move busily between the springhouse and the kitchen. The family looks up with interest as they hear a horse approaching. They nod and call a greeting as they recognize the rider, Dr. Vanleer, making a call. We watch our farm family grow the food for their table, spin their flax into thread to make cloth for a shirt, and prepare the leather from the steer to make shoes. We see them market their surplus to buy a bit of sugar, a pint of rum, and salt to put down the beef. We enjoy their purchase of a new iron pot for the kitchen.

To a degree our reconstruction of Marple Township has validity. The fields were plowed, cows were milked and cheese made by the people who lived and raised families in buildings similar to what we refer to today as "the old part of the Massey house." However, we are only catching a part of the picture. We have left out the bustle of the business carried on in the shops located on these farms, the turning of the millwheels on others, the stench of the tannery, the hours spent in manufacturing nails and barrel

staves. We forget the farmer's concern over the wheat markets in the Islands of the West Indies, in Ireland, and southern Europe, his property in Wilmington or beyond the Susquehanna, the heartache of bankruptcy, and the joy of finally becoming a landowner.

Life is understood through fragments: a purchase of land, a neighbor moving to the city, a hanging, a clipping from the *Gazette*, a minute from the Quaker Meeting, and the proving of a will. Life is dated by universal events: births, marriages, and deaths; wars, droughts, fevers, and fires. This book is a volume of fragments, dated by such events. Its purpose is to bring the people of past to life. Marple as a place is known to us: the creeks marking the boundaries, the outcroppings of silvery schist, and the patches of sandy yellow soil. We live in the homes of the colonial settlers, surrounded by windsor chairs, doughtrays, and butter churns. We come to the celebration of the tri-centennial with a feeling for the physical environment in which the early residents of Marple lived their lives, but we have little knowledge of the lives themselves. We have not searched the public and private records for fragments with which to reconstruct the population as carefully as we have explored the antique shops in search of spinning wheels and old brasses. This book is an effort to right the balance, to provide a sense of the richness and fullness of life in the colonial period. It is a book of the similarity of human experience over time.

This book sketches the first hundred years of Marple's history. It begins on July 10, 1683, the date on which the first tract of land (330 acres) was laid out and granted to a purchaser, Thomas Ellis. It continues through to June 30, 1784, the 100th anniversary of the date on which the last unclaimed land in Marple (600 acres) was surveyed and granted to Jonathan Hayes. As a period in colonial history that includes the years of settlement, the years of development of a colonial economy, the French and Indian Wars, the subsequent conflict with England and the Revolution, the Treaty of Paris, and the first steps in the establishment of a new nation.



The Thomas Massey House is unique because so much of the original has survived. The brick portion was built by Thomas Massey as an addition to an existing wooden house. About 1730 his son, Mordecai replaced the center wooden house with stone. The kitchen was changed about 1800 to stone and during restoration, evidence of a walk-in fireplace and beehive oven was discovered. These features have been reconstructed and are in use.

Chapter 2

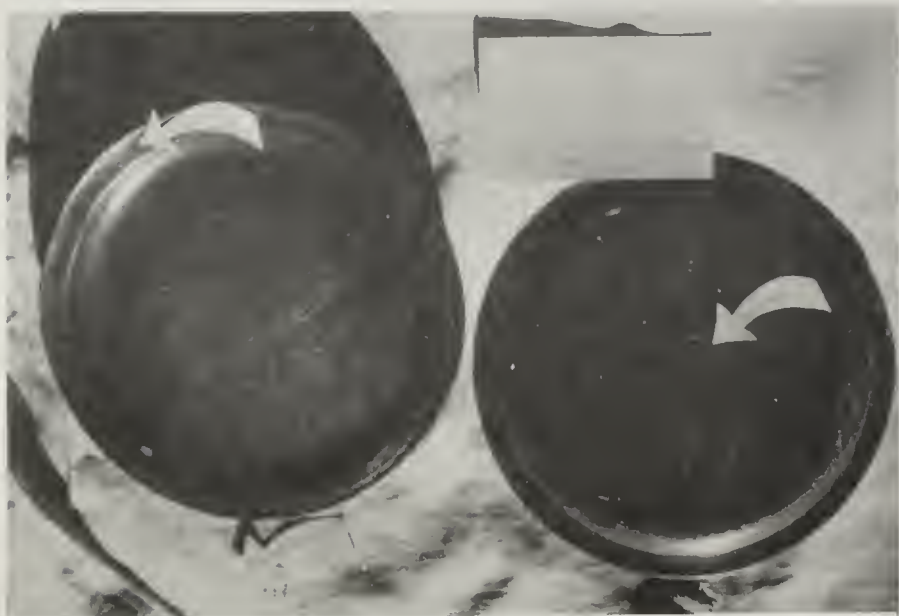
**THE SETTLERS OF
MARPLE**

The Settlement of Marple

In the summer or early fall of 1682 Robert Taylor, husbandman of the hamlet of Clatterwich in Little Leigh, near Great Budworth, Cheshire, England, said farewell to his wife Mary and seven of his children: Rachel, Isaac, Phebe, Mary, Thomas, Jonathan, and Martha. Accompanied by his son Josiah, he set out for Pennsylvania. The family would not be together again for over a year and never again in England, although Taylor retained his landholding there.

In 1682 Robert Taylor was about forty-nine years of age. As a young man he was convinced of the truth of the Quaker teaching and left the Church of England to become a member of the Society of Friends. In 1662 he and five others were imprisoned at Chester, England, for unlawfully assembling upon "Pretence of joining together in religious Worship of God." In December 1665, about a year after the birth of his first daughter, he and "his pretended wife," Mary Hayes, were summoned before the Court for an illegal marriage (marriage by Quaker ceremony) and fined.

The Taylors were typical of the Quaker families who responded to William Penn's plan to found a Quaker colony in America. On March 3, 1681/2 Robert Taylor purchased the right to 1000 acres in Pennsylvania



Pewter plates dated circa 1670-1710 belonging to the Massey family. Gift of Mrs. Gussow.



Lowboy made by Bartholomew Coppock. Portrait is Cook Curtis. Clock belonged to Curtis.

for twenty pounds. The land was to be located and surveyed after his arrival in Pennsylvania. He arranged with Daniel Williamson, a young man eager to travel to America, to serve his wife in his absence and to accompany her and his children on their voyage to join him in Pennsylvania the following year. He and Josiah went ahead to locate land and prepare a home for the family. On November 11, 1682, 400 acres were surveyed to Robert Taylor in Springfield Township. The balance of his 1000 acres (600 acres) were surveyed the following year in Marple: 550 for his own use and 50 acres for Daniel Williamson. He conveyed 200 acres of the Marple tract to his son Josiah in 1689 and bequeathed the remaining acres in Marple to his sons, Jonathan and Thomas, by will probated in 1695.

The Original Landholders of Marple:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Thomas Ellis, Merionethshire, Wales | 330 A. July 10, 1683 |
| John Nixon, Cheshire, England | 300 A. October 20, 1683 |
| Ebenezer Langford, Barbadoes | 500 A. October 21, 1683 |
| John Howell, Cheshire, England | 300 A. October 22, 1683 |
| Daniel Williamson, Cheshire, England | 100 A. October 22, 1683 |
| George Willard, Sussex, England | 300 A. October 24, 1683 |
| John Pearson, Cheshire, England | 300 A. October 25, 1683 |
| Mary Smith, Cheshire, England | 50 A. October 25, 1683 |
| Francis Stanfield, Cheshire, England | 600 A. October 26, 1683 |
| Peter Worrall, Cheshire, England | 300 A. October 27, 1683 |
| Robert Taylor, Cheshire, England | 550 A. October 30, 1683 |
| William Howell, Pembrokeshire, Wales | 200 A. June 13, 1684 |
| Charles and John Bevan, Glamorganshire, Wales | 750 A. June 28, 1684 |
| Jonathan Hayes, Cheshire, England | 600 A. June 30, 1684 |
| Joseph Clayton, Cheshire, England | 200 A. c. 1684 |

See inside front cover map for sites

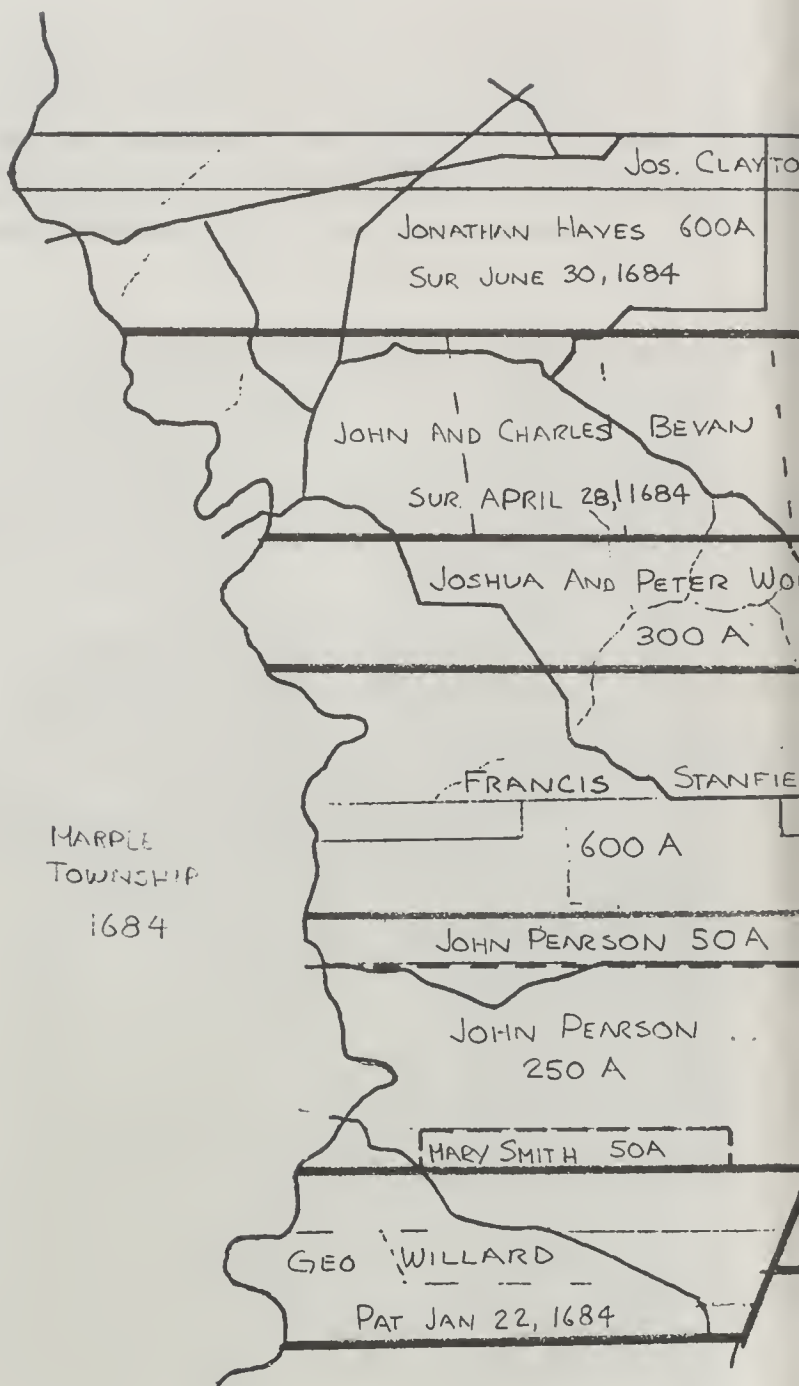
Between March 1683 and August 1684, sixteen people became freeholders in Marple Township. What brought them to Pennsylvania? What were their goals, their expectations? In a general way we know. We know that they were all Quakers. Some had been subjected to harassment by the Church of England for refusal to pay tithes and attend services and to persecution by the government for coming together for Meetings. They could not hold public office in England because they refused to swear an oath. William Penn held out an opportunity to live according to the Quaker testimony of peace, equality, and brotherly love. He proposed, on April 25, 1682, a "Frame of Government" with provision for a Provincial Council and for a General Assembly of freemen, elected by their peers, with both the power of veto and of assent over all laws to be enforced within the province. Even he "who came as servant" would have a vote in

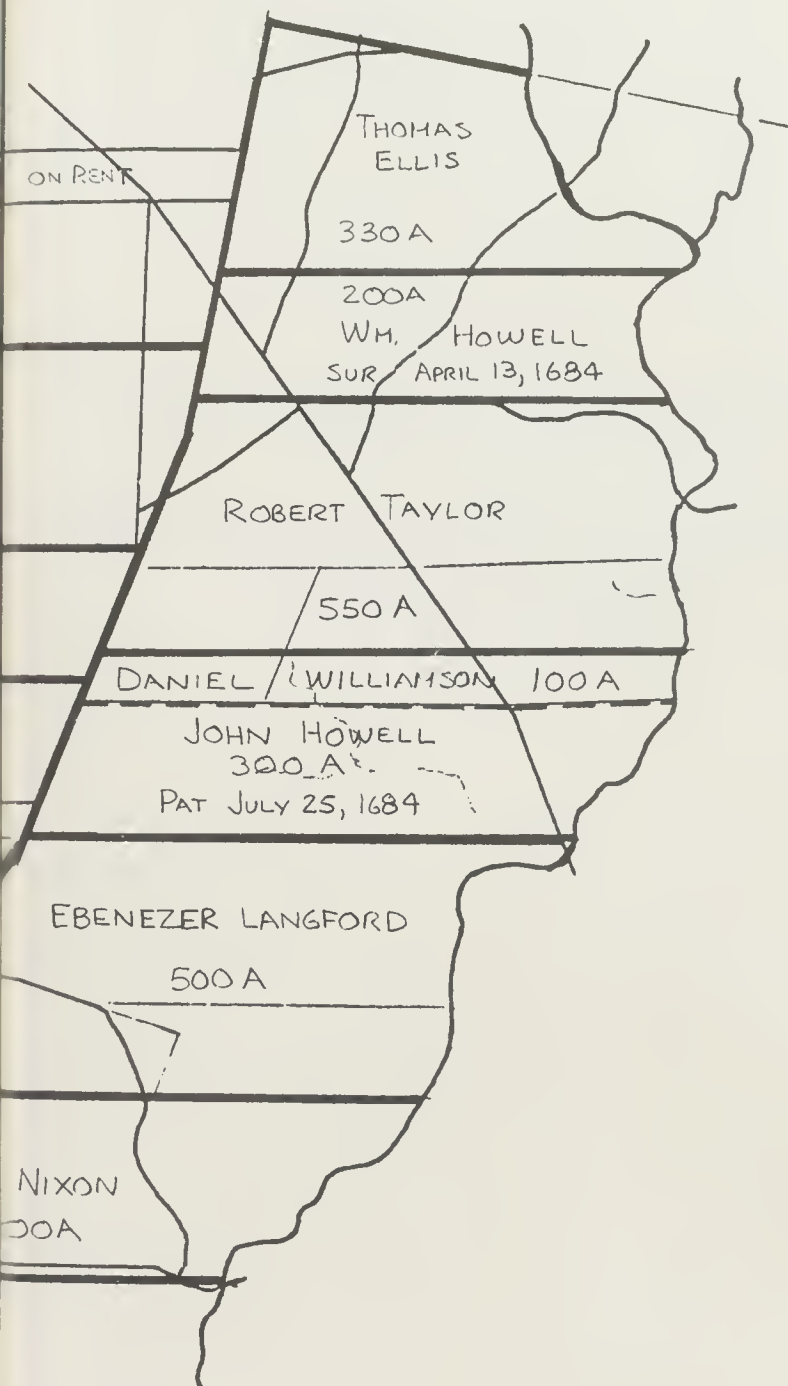
the affairs of the colony on completing his period of service and placing 20 acres under cultivation.

Penn promised these settlers land: land by purchase at ten pounds per 1000 acres; land by rent, up to 200 acres, land at an annual rent of one penny per acre; land by service—50 acres headland at a rent of two shillings per year given to all too poor to come otherwise than as servants, willing to labor industriously for those willing to pay their passage. To all First Purchasers, as the grantees for the first 500,000 acres were called, Penn promised land in the "great town," Philadelphia, "after the proportion of 10 acres for every 500 purchased."



17th Century table belonged to Robert Taylor, Phoebe Massey's father. Property of Chester County Historical Society.





Chapter 3

**THE WORRALL FAMILY—
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF
PERSISTENCE**

The Worrall Family

As there is a desire in the present generation to hear from us old men about the happenings of our youth, I, William Worrall, will herein state some few circumstances calculated to show how times have changed. I was born in Marple the 29th of November, 1730. I did not move to Ridley Township until 1759, after I was married. Before that I helped my father [Jonathan] on the farm. We did not have a cart in those days—carts were not as common as they are today—and we hauled our grain on sleds to the stacks where we made a temporary thrashing-floor. One year we raised 100 bushels of wheat, and my father and I carried it by horseback to Charles Humphrey's mill in Haverford where we sold it for two shillings a bushel. That was a low price. In good years we received four shillings a bushel. That year we had two harvest hands at two shillings a day. You might say each cost us a bushel of wheat a day.

Back then we let our cattle roam in the woods and natural meadows. We did not sow clover like some of the newfangled farmers and did not grow turnips to winter the stock over. Butchers from Philadelphia would come out and buy one, two, or three head of cattle, depending on how many we wanted to sell, and drive them back to town.

There used to be great quantities of wild turkeys and pigeons. Once a great flight of pigeons lasted two days. They flew in such immense flocks as to obscure the rays of the sun. Some of us went out at night with our nets into Martin's bottom. The pigeons raised such a racket we could not hear each other speak. The next morning we went back and we found large limbs of the trees broken off from the immense weight and pressure of their lodgers. One year, I remember, a huge bear came down into the neighborhood, and great efforts were made to capture him, but he escaped back into the hills.

In 1755 there was a drought. The springs were lower in our neighborhood than I have ever seen them since. The spring in front of my house went dry and that has never occurred since, and David Sharpless' mill race dried up. The oat crop nearly failed, being only a few inches high. The wheat was thin, but the grain heavy and of excellent quality.

I remember in 1772 there was a great snow in the middle of March. The night following was so very cold that the spring bluebirds gathered for shelter in a hole that a woodpecker pecked in one of my apple trees. I found twenty-six of them still there the next day. They had perished that night in that hole with the cold. On May 4th, 1774 it started to snow in the morning very fast. The next day there was a great white and the (water) ground was frozen hard enough to bear a man. I saw ice one-half inch thick that morning.



Rhoads Worrall House, So. Paxon Hollow Rd. now Langstoon Rd. Center section is oldest.



Painting by Albert B. Weaver

J. Worrall House on Martin's Run, lower right building (on golf course 1985) said to be original home has two corner fireplaces.

24

In quantity and quality, as old & new live for a
 20 years for ever. I give all the remainder of my estate
 my wife Sons Benjamin and Seth to be equally divided
 between them share and share alike. I do hereby
 appoint my wife to be the guardian and sole
 executrix of my last will and testament
 in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
 and seal the 10th day of June 1773
 Signed sealed and approved at }
 in the presence of } Jonathan Worrell

John Norton

()

Daniel Cuttinton

11

Chester June 1773

Then personally appeared John Norton and
 Daniel Cuttinton and on their oaths on the Holy Evangelists of St. Matthew
 did depose & declare and say that they were personally present and did see
 and hear Jonathan Worrell the testator above named sign and publish
 pronounce and declare the foregoing Writing as and for his last will and
 Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of sound mind disposing
 Mind and Memory to the best of their Understandings.

Sworn before me
 M. G. G. G.
 ()

Jonathan Worrell Will and Witness (1773)

Marriage ceremonies were very much the same as they are today. The bride rode to meeting behind her father or next friend, seated on a pillion; after the ceremony, when they were ready to return home, the pillion was placed behind the saddle of her husband. Funerals went on foot. The dead were carried to the place of interment on the shoulders of four men—the coffin was swung on poles in order that they might wind along the paths with more ease.

I never had coffee or tea until I was twenty years of age. My father bought some tea in Philadelphia. My aunt lived with us and had charge of the house. She did not know how to use the tea and sought some advice from one of our more refined neighbors. Her prudent conduct was not imitated by one of her friends who boiled the leaves and buttered them.

The past which William Worrall's reminiscences evoke is the past as we are accustomed to imagining it. We tend to see the colonial farmer as a sturdy self-sufficient yeoman: He and his family produced most of what they needed, consumed most of what they produced, and sold the surplus to buy "necessities." Jonathan Worrall, William's father, seems to fit this image. The harvest experiences, the night bagging of pigeons, the snows, droughts, and the family joke over the neighbor who buttered her tea leaves are all part of the simple rustic world we have lost. It is, therefore, interesting to probe further to see what additional details can be learned about these Worralls. How well does our romantic conception fit to the facts as we can determine them?

The Jonathan Worrall farm was a family farm. It was located on land surveyed to Peter Worrall I in 1683 and part of the land was given to Peter Worrall II in 1699 by his father for his better advancement. Jonathan received his 100 acres on his marriage in 1727 to Mary Taylor, daughter of Jonathan Taylor, late of Marple, deceased. Jonathan and Mary raised twelve children, eight sons and four daughters. Their goal was to see each son established on a farm of his own and each daughter sent off with a marriage portion. William settled in Ridley Township with the help of his family. Three of the eight sons were still at home in March 1773 when Jonathan wrote his will. To Elisha he left £85, enough cash to stock and equip a farm. The two youngest sons, Benjamin and Seth, were to share the family farm; the 100 acres was to be equally divided between them.

After Jonathan's death in the spring of 1775 the farm was partitioned. The brothers settled and lived out their lives in Marple. By 1783 in the township only the lands left by Jonathan and by his brother Peter III, were in the possession of owners who carried the last name of the original settler. In three cases names disappeared because the male line failed and the land passed to the female line; but, generally speaking, the land had been sold and then, in most cases, sold again.

When William was a boy (the 1740's) the family had no wagon, only a sled with which to haul the grain. Jonathan's inventory, listing two carts, three sleds, and two plows, indicated his success as a farmer. His crops in the ground in the spring of 1775—wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, flax, and

potatoes—were valued at £23; his horses, cows, sheep, and pigs, £66; and his wearing apparel, watch, horse saddle and bridle, at £39. The total inventory (real estate excluded) was valued at £610. What seems surprising at first is that of this total £212 were in bonds and interest and £244 were in cash. The family had been large; the older children had been assisted in establishing themselves in the area, an area where land prices were high, and the farm, judging from tax assessments, was only of average quality.

The inventory as a whole and the cash assets in particular indicate that Jonathan's income was probably derived largely from farming but that his family was perhaps not what might be termed self-sufficient. Mixed farming of the type followed in Marple did not occupy the farmer full time. The demands were seasonal. During planting and harvest time he worked long hours. During most of the year his stock and crops required considerably less time, and he could devote time to clearing of land, fencing, rebuilding, and improving agricultural productivity by constructing irrigation systems. However, most farmers in this period, living in areas where farms were well-established, found that they had the time to take on a second occupation. Weaving, furniture making, and shoemaking were occupations which could be worked into the farm schedule. There is no evidence that Jonathan had a second occupation. What is more, so far, there is no evidence that his sons served apprenticeships as did most of their cousins.

But if Jonathan's inventory gives no indication of a second occupation, it also gives no indication of self-sufficiency. He was not spending spare time making shoes for the family, building furniture, or weaving coverlets. The inventory indicates that the family spun their wool and flax into thread and then sent it out to be woven into cloth. They were using the skills of specialized tradesmen, many of whom were also substantial farmers, in providing for the needs of the family. What becomes clear from the cash assets in the inventory then is that they were able to pay cash for these services. Jonathan specialized in farming and did it well. He paid his neighbor, Jonathan Heacock, or perhaps his cousin, John Worrall, both farmers and weavers, to weave the family linen.

The life of William seems to have paralleled that of his father. William's farm in Ridley was small, about 80 acres. Like his father he seems to have been a "typical farmer." His crops were those he raised at home as a youth, with the possible exception of turnips. It is the similarity between father and son which suggests that if Jonathan had left an account of his minor transactions and of small sums lent it would read much as the account book left by his son William.

William Worrall began his account book in 1762 and continued it through 1818. Only the last entries suggest in the shaky handwriting that he was then about 93 years of age. The book is a record of small transactions and of small loans made by William. William slaughtered a steer and sold the beef to seven of his neighbors at various prices per pound, depending on the cut. He lent a neighbor £6 to pay for a cow pur-

Inventory of all & sing. See the Goods & Chattels of the
 Hiradiki which were of Senabun & made late of the town
 ship of Apple. County of Chester taken the 30th of
 6 Mo 1776

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| Cash | 25 | 11 | 1 |
| Bond Interest | 2 | 10 | |
| Weaving Spindle, Watch, Horseshoe & Bridle | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| 3 Pairs of Calves & 2 Steers | 2 | 9 | 10 |
| Large Mare Colt | 2 | 5 | |
| 10 Sheep & 8 Lambs | 6 | 16 | |
| 1 Cow & 4 Calves | 5 | | |
| 2 Pairs, Harrow chain & living trees | 4 | 12 | |
| 3 Pairs of Hops & Vines | 1 | 6 | |
| Hay knife, cutting box & knife | 1 | 5 | |
| Cash | 6 | | |
| Cash & Plain Gold & Cash Hopes | 4 | 8 | |
| 3 Brides & 1 Ado | 10 | 6 | |
| Bakes, Pickforks & Lung forks | 1 | 6 | |
| Apple Mill | 5 | | |
| Ladder | 2 | 6 | |
| 1000 bricks | 2 | 6 | |
| 10 hives of Bees | 3 | 15 | |
| Wheel, Hammer, Grindstone, & Channings | 9 | 6 | |
| 1000 shads & Matlock | 8 | | |
| Carpenters Tools | 1 | 5 | |
| 3 Axes, Mow & Hoes | 1 | 2 | |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 3 Axes Man & edges | 12 |
| old Iron, Steel, & Cast-iron | 7 6 |
| 37 th local | 2 15 6 |
| 37 th local | 3 6 |
| long & 2 small wheels, & 2 poles | 1 - - |
| 1 Bed & 1 Chamber | 1 7 6 |
| 1 D ^o | 12 |
| 1 D ^o | 1 - - |
| 1 D ^o | 3 - - |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 2 15 - |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 17 - |
| 1 Bed & 1 Chamber | 1 - - |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 - - |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 10 - |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 2 6 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 7 6 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 6 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 2 8 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 5 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 13 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 10 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 7 6 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 5 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 1 8 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 15 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 3 |
| 1 D ^o & 1 Chamber | 2 6 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 60 cwt | 111 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 26 |
| Indian Corn Long Shovel & raring pins | 5 |
| Indian Corn Long Shovel & raring pins | 136 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 5 |
| Indian Corn | 141 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 115 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 2 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 76 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 16 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 6 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 2 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 10 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 66 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 18 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 25 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 65 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 14 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 39 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 13 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 8 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 4 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 1 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 1 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 15 |
| Long Shovel & raring pins | 76 |

Appraised by
Nathaniel Holland
Joseph Rhoads

chased at Henry Effinger's vendue. The striking thing about the book is that loans outweighed sales substantially. In 1767, for example, loans totaled £26 and sales only £10. In 1768 William lent about £59, mostly in sums under £4, and sold goods and services to the same group to the value of only £7. In a period when money was tight, it is curious to find a small farmer with cash to lend and willing to risk his cash. It suggests that we have underestimated the amount of money in circulation. People did not merely keep records in terms of cash values and wait for accounts to balance in the long run. They paid in cash and looked for cash in return to settle their debts with persons such as William Worrall.

Worrall was by far the most common name in Marple during its first 100 years. Peter Worrall II, a son of Peter the original settler, had eight children, six sons and two daughters. Over his lifetime he increased his holdings in Marple from 150 acres to over 460. He provided farms in that township for five of his six sons. The sixth settled in Upper Providence with the assistance of his father. Four of the five families, including the family of Jonathan, remained in Marple into the next generation. Only the family of his eldest son, John, dropped out of the Marple records by the early 1760s.

John Worrall was given a 150 acre tract by his father in 1722, the year before he married Hannah, daughter of Jonathan Taylor, late of Marple, and sister of Mary Taylor, later the wife of his brother Jonathan. The couple settled in Marple where John combined farming with his trade, weaving. In about 1728 he purchased and then leased a farm of 106 acres in Middletown Township. Later he added two tracts in Berks County which he also leased. In the 1750s he moved to his Middletown farm and leased the Marple farm to his son George. He died intestate in Middletown in 1757. The estate was sent before the Court for settlement.

A jury appointed by the Orphans' Court was sent to view the two properties in Chester County. They agreed that the Middletown and Marple farm could not be divided between the widow Hannah and the nine children without prejudice to the whole and valued the Marple farm at £412 and the Middletown farm at £310. The two eldest sons, Jonathan, a cordwainer, and George, a blacksmith, refused the lands. They were then offered to the third son, John, a weaver. He gave security to his mother for payment of shares due to the other heirs, settled on the Middletown farm and placed both farms on the market. Jonathan accepted the Berks County tracts and gave security for the payment of shares due to the other heirs from these lands. Five sons and two of the daughters of John Worrall received not land but cash settlements of £80 each. This amount was not enough to purchase farms within the area but enough to stock and equip a leased farm or to move westward.

George Worrall, who had been renting the Marple farm at the time of his father's death at £12 per year, remained there at an increased rent of £15 until his brother sold the property in 1762 to Henry Trimble of Ridley. A cordwainer, Trimble saw it as a farm for his son Lewis. Trimble

J. Worrall House stood until 1960 North side Palmer's Mill Rd. on edge of golf course.



sold the 150 acres in 1769 to Henry Effinger of Ridley for £648, £285, 10s over its value at which it was assessed by the Orphans Court in 1761.

What were these two farms owned by John Worrall like? His son, John, answers the question in his advertisement in the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1762.

JOHN WORRALL OF MIDDLETOWN AND MARPLE.

To be sold by Public Vendue, on Tuesday the 13th of April next, on the premises, two valuable plantations, one situate, lying and being in the township of Marple, Chester County, 13 miles distant from Philadelphia, and 8 from Chester, containing 150 acres, 90 thereof cleared, about 15 acres of meadow, and 10 acres more may be made, and watered; likewise a good orchard, containing 150 apple trees; the rest is very good corn land, and the wood land well timbered and watered. The said plantation is in good repair, and has on it two good stone houses, with a cellar under the house, a good barn, stables and cow house, and a sheep-house, likewise a Smith's shop, and a good log springhouse. The title indisputable, and is subject to a Quit Rent of one shilling sterling per hundred.

The other plantation is situate in township of Middletown, Chester County, 6 miles distant from Chester, and 15 from Philadelphia, containing 106 acres, 60 thereof cleared, about 10 acres of watered meadow; likewise a good bearing orchard, that will make 50 barrels of cyder in a year, the rest good corn land and the wood land well timbered and watered. The plantation is in good repair, and has on it a large brick house, with a cellar under it; also a brick kitchen, and a stone room; likewise a good stone springhouse, and a frame barn and stables. The payments will be made easy to the purchaser, and possession will be given immediately. The sale to begin at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, on said day.

JOHN WORRALL

N.B. The said plantation in Middletown would be a fine Country-Seat for a Gentleman, four public roads meeting before the door, and where there has been a tavern kept 25 years by Charles Crosley. Any person inclining to purchase, may view the premises before the day of sale, and know the terms, by applying to the subscriber, living in Middletown, where the vendue is to be held.

(Pennsylvania Gazette, March 25, 1762)

John Worrall's (1757) inventory listed ten acres of wheat and rye (commonly sowed together) in the ground at Marple. It is estimated that an average family consumed sixty bushels of wheat yearly. Estimates on yield per acre vary: five to twelve bushels on old land; ten to twenty on good land; more on new land. In 1762 wheat was bringing five shillings six-pence at the mill. Assuming a farmer planted 10 acres of wheat, at twelve bushels per acre he would receive sixteen pounds ten shillings for the crop less the sixty bushels held for family use.

A prospective buyer, viewing the Worrall farm in Marple would not

J. Worrall House—South side of curve Paxon Hollow Rd. (past Palmer's Mill Road).



have merely considered his probable income from wheat. This was an area of mixed farming. The fact that the meadows were described as "watered" was important. It indicated a run and irrigation ditches for flooding the meadow lands, thereby tripling the hay yield and insuring early grass for the spring lambs. To the experienced farmer the sheep and cattle sheds meant the necessary protection for the stock he would winter over. They also meant manure for the fields. A farm such as this would provide meat, butter and cheese, fruits and vegetables as well as hides, wool, hemp or flax—food for the family table and food to sell in the Philadelphia markets or to the Conestoga wagons going west, as well as raw materials for craftsmen and local manufacturing.

In addition there was the second stone house and the blacksmith's shop. They could be let to a blacksmith as a unit. Separately they could provide housing for a hired man and his family and a shop for a tradesman or the owner himself. That there was a shop on the property was significant in itself for it indicated that this farm was convenient for tradesmen. Few farms advertised in the eighteenth century failed to recognize the importance of opportunities for bi-occupational activity.

Chapter 4

THE ROADS OF MARPLE

The Roads of Marple

In 1683 Marple boasted one road, The Marple Street Road or the Great Road of Marple as it was also called. It ran due north through the township. The tracts laid out for the original purchasers by the provincial surveyors ran east and west from that road: east to the Darby Creek and west to the Crum Creek. By 1784 most of what today are the main roads crisscrossing the township and linking it to the surrounding area had been built. Roadbeds have changed to the left or right, and roads have been widened, but essentially our roads are an inheritance from the past. As such, they provide a very concrete, vital expression of the life of the period during which they were built.

Generally, colonial roads did not just happen. They were not well-worn paths linking neighbor to neighbor but were carefully laid out to meet definite, specific needs of the people in the area. A road represented a considerable investment in time and effort by the entire township. The individuals who wanted the road had to draw up a petition, obtain signatures, and travel to Chester to present the petition to the county court. If the petition was accepted, the Court ordered a jury made up of local taxpayers to lay out the road, taking into account boundary lines, the lie of the land, and injury and inconvenience to the persons whose lands would be affected. The proposed road, described in detail according to the survey by the jury, was returned to the Court. If approved, the supervisors of highways for the townships where the road was located were ordered to see that the road was built as laid out. This meant that they must summon the able men of their township, and together they must clear the land and do whatever was necessary to make it suitable for the type of traffic it was to serve. Costs were shared by the township residents and, if necessary, a special township tax was levied to meet those costs.

Wary of being overcharged by their supervisors of highways, Marple residents carefully examined the accounts submitted for payment. The charges filed in the County Court against Benjamin Powell and Philip Moore, supervisors of highways for Marple in 1773, by angry township residents cannot but evoke sympathy, understanding, and sense of kinship with these earlier citizens whatever the merits of this particular case.

As community efforts and as indicators of social and economic development over time, roads have a place in our search for the people of our past. Roads were built as needed. They went to specific places: to mills, meetinghouses, markets, courts, and other roads. They made travel easier and they restricted travelers to certain prescribed pathways.

To trace the development of Marple through her roads we must move



Peter Worrall property as early as 1700—Log house built later. Southwest corner. The Great Rd. of Marple (Sproul Rd. [1985] and Paxon Hollow Rd.)



Log house being razed—remains (1984) owned by Dr. Mead Schaeffer—(Booth homes lead on So. Bethel Rd., Bethel Twp.)

We whose Names are hereonto subscribed Inhabitants of the Township of Marple apprehend our Selves Imposed upon by the misconduct of Benjamin Powell and Philip Moor who were chosen or appointed Supervisors for this our Townships, the year 1772. That when their charge or Accounts came to be cast up and examined by persons chosen for that purpose according to Law—It amounted to at least one third more than has been expended in any one year this 20 years past and yet no more work done, nor better performed then formerly on Such occasions. It is true they had a piece of new road to open between James Rhoads and Henry Lawrence, Isaac Maris & Seth Pancoast. But we apprehend it might have been done with little more than one half the hands full as well in the same time if rightly conducted. It has likewise been the practice in our Township heretofore, except them, to make a Division of the Township, and one Supervisor to take one part, and the other, the other part, in order to expedite business, but the above mentioned two, we have good reason to believe, chose rather to keep together to prolong the Business and run us to as much cost as possible.—And moreover they being in Authority, took upon them without the Approbation of the Inhabitants of the Township or the Committee by them appointed—To go and get a Surveyor to find out where the middle of the old Road was, from Springfield Meeting to Newtown lines, whereby they have run us considerable cost, and proved little or no effect. Besides they it seems to enlarge their salary have been So frugal as to charge one Shilling to the pound for collecting the whole Tax, which Tax amounted to upward of 40 pounds whereas it appears they had but about nine pounds of it to collect—We likewise understand they exclaim against the persons appointed or chosen to Settle their accounts by reason of their docking of a Small matter about Seven pounds Some odd, But truly we think we have the most reason to exclaim that they did not dock of twice Seven—Yet as we have agreed to leave it to them we can't help our Selves except a greater Authority Should See cause to redress our grievance which if not done, we have great reason to fear will be an ill president for other Succeeding Supervisors to go by, these are our genuin Sentiments as witness our hands this 24th Day—of August 1773.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mordecai Morris | Jonathan Maris | Nath'l Holland |
| Charles Linn | Peter Worrall | James Worrall |
| Joseph Rhoads | James Rhoads | Jonathan Worrall |
| Daniel Hoopes | Isaac Maris | Hugh Travis |
| B. V. Leer | ——— Worrall | |

Lost on Lancaster Rd, about 2 Miles from Middle Ferry on 2nd Jan., iron gray horse, about 14 hands high, a switch tail, face white, 7 yrs old next spring, Also, a good saddle and bridle, 2 market wallets and a bag, a pr of steelyards, weighs 54 on the longest side. \$6 reward or \$5 for horse only, living Marple.

ISAACREECE

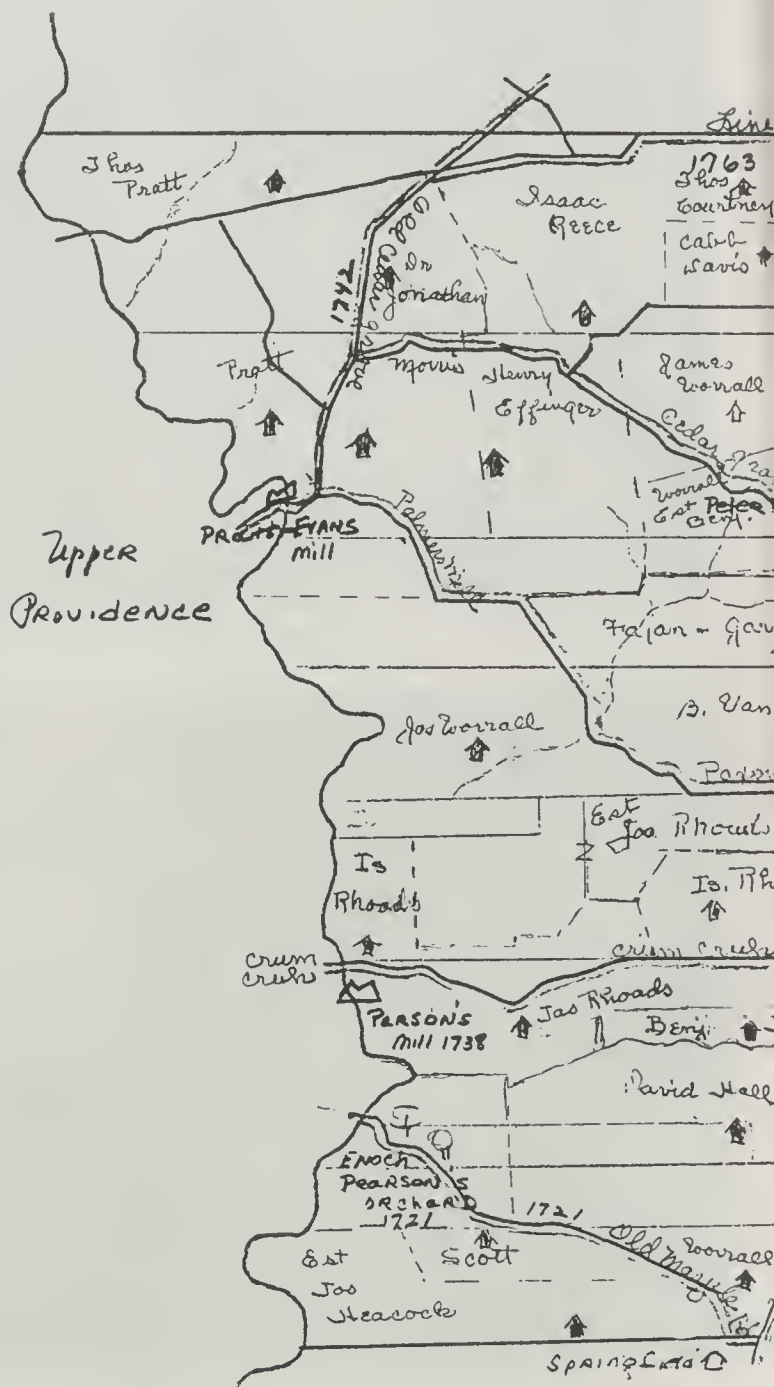
(Pennsylvania Gazette Jan 16, 1782)

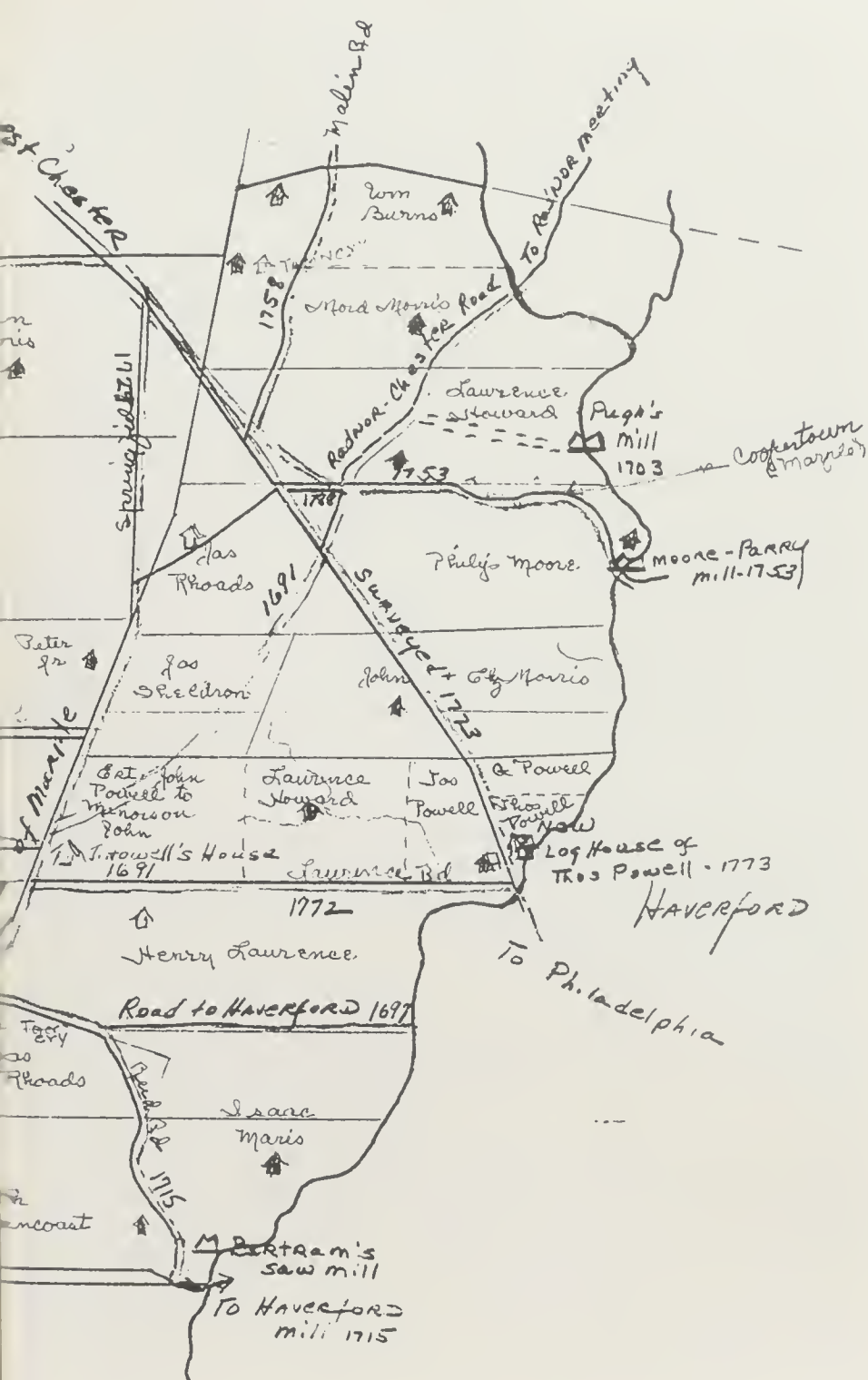


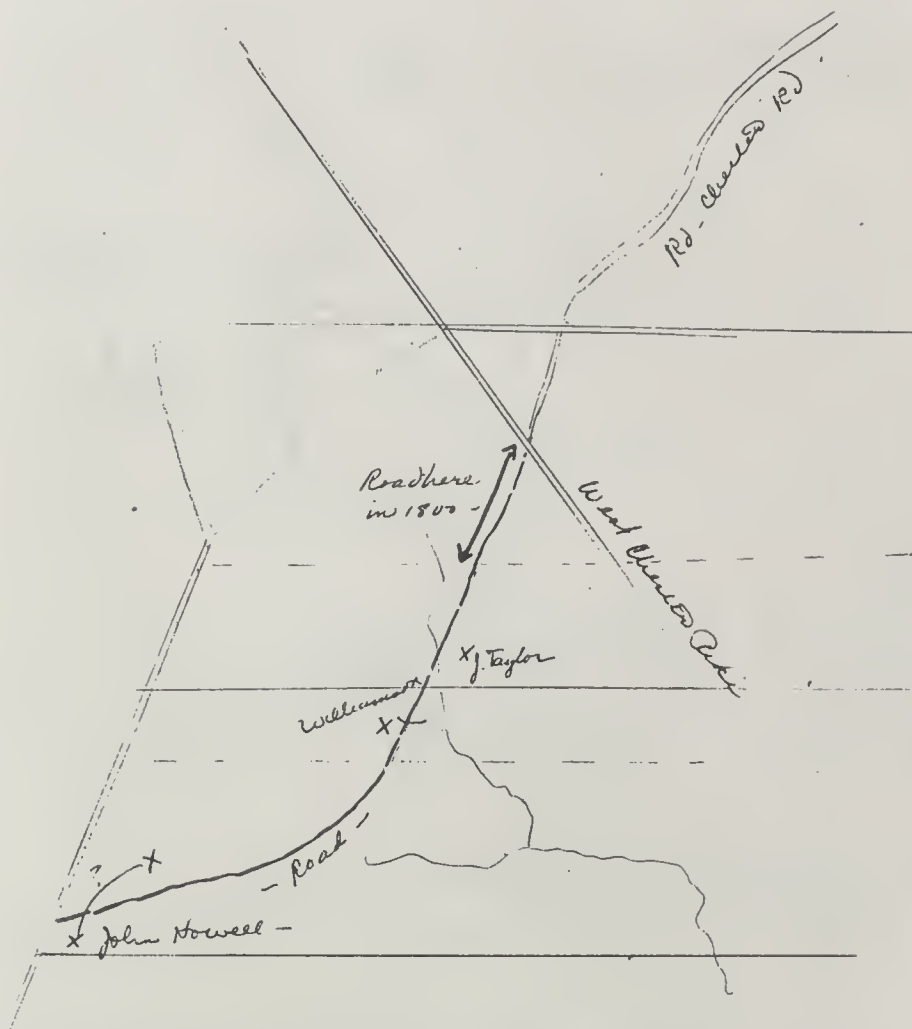
Joseph Rhoads ca. 1730—The Great Road of Marple (Sproul in 1985) and Crum Creek Road.



Leather shop on Rhoads property.







Radnor-Chester Rd.—“extension” from 1691 description. x = guesses at location of 1691 houses. Road as described Chester Co. court records. 1800 deed shows this alignment.

freely over the entire township. The names and landmarks referred to in these records are unfamiliar today. To maintain the necessary focus a running translation into the familiar is necessary. Modern names will be worked in as possible or simply added in parentheses. It must be recognized, however, that they are only intended as guideposts. They cannot be taken literally; the road beds are only approximately the same.

The first reference to Marple in the road records for the county is a 1687 order to the Grand Jury to lay out a road from Springfield, starting in the road from Chester through Marple to Newtown (starting in the Sproul Road), to the navigable water at the landing in Amos Land (south of Ridley Park) on the Darby Creek. In 1691 a road was ordered built from the Radnor Meeting across the corner of Haverford Township into Marple to intersect the Great Road of Marple (the Sproul Road) near John Howell's house. The road crossed the Darby Creek and entered Marple at a valley known as the Dry Hollow. It cut through the lands of David Morris, the widow Ellis, and William Howell, following a course similar to today's Sproul Road to the Marple Presbyterian Church. Then rather than turning right as the road does today, it continued down Church Road and across to a line approximately that of West Greenhill Rd. Leaving Greenhill, it entered the land owned by Josiah Taylor, passed near his home on Langford Run and then by the home of Daniel Williamson (in the vicinity of New Ardmore Ave. and Winding Way) and came out at a black oak near Howell's home on the corner of Lawrence Road and Sproul Road. All trace of the road bed after the road crosses the West Chester Pike seems to have been erased by time.

In 1697, in response to a petition for a convenient cart way from Marple to the Haverford Meeting, the Court ordered a road to be built from the Great Road of Marple, beginning at Henry Hamm's (the corner of Reed Road and Sproul Road) and running as directly as possible to the Darby Creek. The road probably began at Reed Road but after a short distance went directly east to the creek between the line of Thomas Massey's and Thomas Hope's lands. There is no comparable road today.

In partnership with Thomas Massey a group of landowners, most of them from Marple, Springfield, and Newtown purchased a tract which they referred to as Limestone Hill, located in the great Valley. Their intention, they stated in their petition in 1701 for a road to the hill, was to set up a kiln and to burn the lime they needed on their farms. The Court ordered that a road be built from the Limestone Hill, through Easttown to the head of the Crum Creek and thence into the road leading from Newtown through Marple by the Great Road and into Springfield. With the exception of the Worralls and Richard Thomson, all the resident landowners in Marple in 1701 signed the petition: Thomas Massey, Jonathan Hayes, Bartholomew Coppock, Junior, John Howell, William Huntley, David Morris, Daniel Williamson, Edward Dawes, Jonathan Taylor, Thomas Pearson, and Thomas Hope.

* * * * *



Rhoads Leather Tannery—Great Road of Marple (Sproul Rd. in 1985) and Reed Road—Southeast side. Established in 1702, still in business 1980's in Wilmington, Delaware.

We know from an early survey that in 1703 a mill stood on the Darby Creek on the land of John Pugh, a millwright. However, there was no petition for a road filed in this case. It seems likely that the mill, located about half way between Sproul Road and Marple Road on the creek, was approached by a lane across the miller's property from the road to Radnor, that is, from the Sproul Road.

* * * * *

In 1715, the people of Marple requested a road from Joseph Rhoads' tannery in Marple to the New Mill in Haverford (the mill owned by Richard Hayes and Samuel Lewis, of Haverford and David Morris, of Marple). The road was ordered resurveyed in 1772. It was then, as the aggrieved petitioners wrote, in very bad condition and needed rebuilding but they could not proceed because the original survey could not be found. This road is today's Reed Road.

The next road to be built in Marple was laid out from Upper Providence in 1721. It crossed the Crum Creek at Enoch Pearson's and cut through his orchard and then the lands of the Richard Morris and Jonathan Heacock to Marple-Springfield line near the Springfield Meeting. A road requested in 1759 from Providence to Springfield Meeting seems to have served a similar need and to have followed a

similar course. Together these two roads remain in Old State Road and Old Marple Road.

By 1729 roads were being resurveyed and straightened. The main road through the township, the north-south road from the Springfield Meeting to Newtown, was resurveyed in that year and probably made more direct. It remained unchanged from the Springfield Meeting north through Marple on the Great Road of Marple (Sproul Road) to about where Springfield Road intersects Sproul Road today. It then went north on the Springfield Road (literally the road to Springfield) and crossed the Newtown line at a great black oak. The surveys in 1780s for the Road to West Chester and Lancaster (West Chester Pike) crossed from Marple to Newtown at a black oak stump, possibly, therefore, at the same spot.

By May 1734 there were still no roads through the northwestern part



18th Century house north side Spring Valley Road; entrance from Crum Creek Road. Walk-in fire place and scar of beehive oven just inside doorway on lower level; bank house.



Probably an 18th Century Rhoads house north side Crum Creek Rd.—end of right of way between Kenny & Winchester.



Spring house for above property.

of the township. The persons living in that area addressed the Court. They were, they pointed out, "debarred from any Road to Meeting, Mill, or any other place." They requested a road from Barron Hill in Upper Providence to the great Road of Marple. The road as laid out began near Joseph Powell's home (which had been John Howell's home when the Radnor Road had been surveyed in 1691 and today is the Videon-Gibson Funeral Home). It followed the line dividing Dr. Vanleer's land from that of John Rhoads and then ran northwest across the lands of Peter Thomson, Jonathan Worrall, and the lands of Joshua and Mary Pennell to the Crum Creek and on into Upper Providence. Today, one would take the Paxon-Hollow Road to Palmer's Mill Road and then turn left on to Route 252 before crossing the creek.

In 1738 the inhabitants began to petition for a road from the Great Road to the mill Joseph Parsons was building on the Crum Creek. They were, they noted, "very much incomoded for want of such a road, having their fences pulled down, their fields and meadows laid open by people that were continually passing that way." The petition was circulated widely. Most Marple residents signed: Joseph Powell, Jun., James Bartram, Joseph Powell, Abigail Rhoads, Charles Linn, Richard Sheldon, Charles Moore, John Rhoads, Robert Pearson, Benjamin Maddock, Peter Thomson, Joshua Pennell, Bernard Vanleer, Mordecai Massey, Jonathan Maris, Jonathan Worrall, Peter Worrall, and Peter Worrall, Jun. Jonathan Maris protested the first survey and the road was resurveyed



East Crum Creek, and north of Crum Creek Road. Known as the gate house. May be an early Rhoads house.

before it was laid out. This road adds the Crum Creek Road to other familiar roads from the past.

The community continued to move forward. In 1742 there was a request for a road from Newtown Road "to the new mill now building by Joseph Pratt and Cadwalader Evans." The builders of the mill were residents of Edgmont; the land was on both sides of the Crum Creek, half in Marple and the rest in Upper Providence, but the mill itself was in Upper Providence. On the other hand, to judge from the petition the miller's farm was in Marple where the barn was located. The new road which entered Marple from Newtown on the land of Joshua Pennell, cut through his tract and intersected today's Palmer's Mill Road near the Crum Creek. This would be Route 252 from Newtown across Marple to the Crum Creek.

* * * * *

Once they were built, roads had to be maintained. The responsibility rested with the overseers of the highways of the townships in which the roads were located. In 1744 James Powell, the Overseer of Highways for Marple Township, was called before the Court at Chester to answer the charge that the road between Dr. Vanleer's and Crum Creek was "dangerous and unfit for carts, wagons, and other carriages to pass and repass." A petition, however, was filed in his defense. In it it was noted that the condition of the road was due to severe usage, but that "by reason that the road is laid out upon such hilly, stony land intermixed with swamps and runs that it is almost impossible to make a good road," therefore James Powell should not be put to any charges over the matter. The petition was signed by: Robert Pearson, Peter Worrall, Junior, Peter Worrall, Senior, James Worrall, Benjamin Worrall, Henry Feagon, Mordecai Massey, Thomas Woolley, Peter Thomson, David Moore, John Rhoads, Robert Taylor, Bartholomew Coppock, and James Rhoads.

* * * * *

In 1748 a number of the people who owned land along today's Cedar Grove Road petitioned for a road from the Great Marple Road, opposite Richard Sheldon's, to the Pratt and Evans Mill. The Court ordered that such a road be surveyed and a return was made in May 1748. However, Joshua Pennell protested. There were enough roads to the mill, and as laid out this road would be damaging to him. A second survey was made. The road was to run along the line of Peter Worrall, Junior, then north over the lands of Worrall and of Henry Feagon to Benjamin Worrall's, then by the home of Peter Worrall, Senior (near Grant Road), past James Worrall's and on Pennell's land to the road from Newtown to the mill (Route 252). There was again a protest. This was really a private road and too expensive. The petition opposing the road was signed by: Mordecai Morris, John Morris, John Rhoads, Jonathan Maris, Robert Taylor, Abel Janney, Joseph Powell, Senior, Charles Moore, James Rhoads, Patrick McCamish, Jonathan Heacock, James Bartram, Robert Pearson, and Bartholomew Coppock. In short, the petition was signed by almost all the landowners except those immediately benefiting and Dr. Vanleer.



1754 is date stone on east end of this house. The house and barn are on west side of Sproul Road on Orchard.



Palmer's Mill.

In May 1763 the matter was reopened. The road was so "enclosed" by the landowners through whose land it passed that the public found it impossible to pass or repass without trespassing. A new petition was filed requesting a road from the line between Dr. Vanleer and Peter Worrall, Junior, through lands of Edward Hughes (earlier Henry Feagan's), Benjamin Worrall, James Worrall, Henry Trimble, Cadwalader Evans and Joshua Pennell to the road from Newtown to the mill, formerly Pratt and Evans' mill, but by 1763 Charles Linn's Mill. The first survey was rejected. As before, it was argued that this road was going to serve too few families. A second survey was also rejected by the persons through whose land it would pass: too many turns and too much injury to their farms. A review was ordered. Four surveys were necessary before the road was approved. Finally, in 1764, Cedar Grove Road was "allowed."

In 1753 the inhabitants of Newtown and Marple petitioned the Court to order a road from the Newtown Road, at Aaron James's gate, directly to the new sawmill being built by Charles Moore of Marple and Rowland Parry of Haverford on the Darby Creek. The jury returned a road from the gate across to Mordecai Morris' land in Marple, through Morris to Jonathan Maris's to intersect the Road from Radnor (Sproul Road) near the present Presbyterian Church and across that road to the land of Charles Moore. The new road then ran along Moore's boundary to his meadow and down to the Darby Creek. The first half of the road ran to the north of the present West Chester Pike and the second half is today's Marple Road or, as it has been known relatively recently, the Coopertown Road.

In 1755 a road was laid out from the Springfield Meeting House, passed James Bartram's Sawmill near the Darby Creek to the Haverford Mills. This added the Eagle Road to the map of Marple.

In 1758 Richard Fawkes of Newtown presented a petition for a private road. Fawkes had purchased two tracts from John Morris of Marple in 1751. The first was along the Marple-Newtown line and adjoined Fawkes' land in Newtown. The other, however, was on the Darby Creek just over the Radnor line from Marple. It was awkwardly located. The land, Fawkes pointed out, was rendered almost useless for lack of a cart road linking it to his other lands. A road could be run from the 10 acres along the line dividing David Lewis's land in Radnor from William Burns' land in Marple to Fawkes' other lands without doing injury to either Burns or Lewis. The Court granted the road.

For a number of years the residents of Marple and Newtown had had the use of a road on sufferance which led from the Great Road from Newtown through Marple along the line separating the two townships to the road to Charles Linn's Mill. In 1763 the people requested that it be surveyed as a public road for as such the townships would be responsible for its maintenance. The request was granted. This is the road known today as the Media Line Road.

The next petition, 1767, concerned the road over the Crum at Linn's Mill. The part of the road laid out in 1742 to the mill (then Pratt and



Lenape Indian Rock Shelter, Langford Road north side, west of Lawrence Road. It is here in 1940 that amateur archaeologists working with Frank Sterling uncovered the remains of an Indian woman. The artifacts found are on display at Marple Library 1985.

Evans') "was laid out on such a bed ground and over such steep hills that it is now almost impossible for carts and carriages." Furthermore the new bridge over the tail race was built a short distance off the road bed, "perhaps because it was a more commodious place." The petitioners requested a new section of road from a hickory grub near Charles Linn's barn on the east side of the Creek, extending over the creek and tail race to Providence Road.

In 1769 Joseph Worrall of Providence and Elisha Worrall of Marple requested a private road from the two pieces of meadow ground on the Crum Creek, which they had purchased from Joshua Pennell, Junior, to the road from Dr. Vanleer's to the mill (that is, to Palmer's Mill Road near the mill). These meadow lots (7 acres in all) were part of a larger tract of 258 acres. Pennell had sold the other 251 acres to Joseph Pratt. Pratt responded angrily to the Worrall's petition: "If you buy a meadow, you cannot expect neighbors to allow you to drive through their lands, settled with corn, gates, and fences." However, the road way was granted.

Lawrence Road existed on sufferance only prior to 1772. As in the case of Line Road, because it was not a recognized road, no one was obliged to maintain or repair it. By 1772 it was almost unpassable on account of unevenness. The Court granted a request that it be made a public road under the township's care.

The roads we have been considering have been county roads, roads authorized by the county. The road known today as the West Chester

Pike was part of a road laid out by order of the Provincial Council as a Public Road or a King's Highway. In December 1773 the townships through which the proposed road was to pass were ordered to cause the road bed to be cleared and open of the breadth of sixty feet with all convenient speed. The road entered Marple from Haverford a few feet below the present and Old Fording place on the Darby Creek, and continued past Thomas Powell's new log house to a stake in his field, thence north seventy six degrees and a quarter west to a large Spanish oak and then by the same course 594 perches to a black oak stump between two hollows and in or on the side of an old road, thence north eighty-three degrees west one hundred and eighty eight perches to a large cherry tree by the side of the road. The cherry tree stood before the Fawkes Tavern in Newtown Township east of the octagonal schoolhouse on the Dunwoody property. Thomas Powell's property on the Darby Creek was only about 25 acres in size. The new Kings Highway then made a clear and clean sweep across the township.

The construction of this road was interrupted by the war and was continued under the Pennsylvania state government in the 1780s. The petition for a road from the New Western Road to the Radnor Road, terminating in the lands of Hugh Jones (northeast corner of Sproul Rd. and Marple Rd.), in 1788 adds the stretch of Sproul Road from Marple Road to the pike.

Chapter 5

**THE QUAKERS OF
MARPLE**

The Quakers of Marple

No series of diaries written by early Marple residents have been found. We do, however, have the minutes of the Quaker Meetings attended by many of the Marple residents. The concerns of the meetings were the concerns of many in the community—even of those who might not have been in sympathy with the Quaker viewpoint. The major events the minutes recorded were those the entire community would have been aware of and in which many would have been participating: the wedding of Thomas Massey of Marple to Phebe, daughter of Robert Taylor of Springfield and Marple in 1692, the fairs at Chester, and the military exercises in the meadow by the mill in 1776. The views represented in the meeting records were views held by many, and the stances taken by the Friends meetings affected the entire township, positively or negatively. This was particularly true of their stand against war.

There never was a "Marple Meeting." The Quakers of Marple attended meeting in the meetings located in the surrounding townships: Radnor, Haverford, Springfield, Providence, and Newtown. It was largely a matter of which meeting was the closest. The minutes used here are drawn from all of these meetings. The recorders, however, are imagined as members of several generations of the Maris family and the perspective is that of a member of the Springfield preparatory meeting and the Chester Monthly Meeting. The names of persons who were residents of Marple or landowners in the township will be written in capital letters. Those who were only landowners and never residents of the township will be starred.

Sept. 11, 1682. It was agreed today that service will be held every first day at the Court House in Chester.

April 2, 1684. A difference between George Gleave and JOHN NICKSON* was brought before the meeting. It was the mind of the friends that differences between friends should not be made public but should remain among friends. FRANCIS STANFIELD and Richard Few were asked to treat with them in the matter of controversy.

Sept. 7, 1685. DANIEL WILLIAMSON and MARY SMITH, both of Marple, declared their intention of marriage today for the first time. ROBERT TAYLOR,* THOMAS PEARSON, GRACE STANFIELD, and Elinor Coppock were appointed to look into their clearness.

Oct. 5, 1685. DANIEL WILLIAMSON and MARY SMITH were found clear of any impediment and were given permission to proceed in marriage.

March 7, 1687. A collection was agreed upon for truth's service. FRANCIS STANFIELD, Robert Vernon and Randal Malin were desired to see to the same in their respective meetings.

Dec. 1, 1687. JOHN WOOD* of Darby and JANE BEVAN* of Haverford, daughter of JOHN BEVAN,* were married at the home of WILLIAM HOWELL* in Haverford.

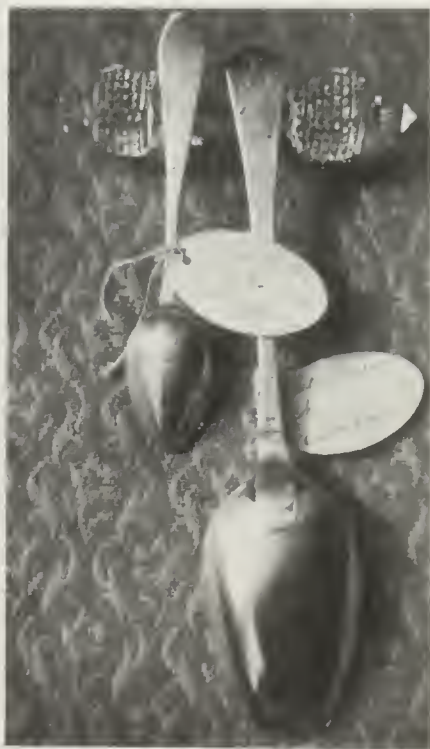
July 2, 1688. The testimony against selling rum to the Indians was signed at the Chester Meeting and returned to Philadelphia.

July 31, 1688. HENRY HAMMS of Springton, cordwainer, and REBECCA FINCHER, spinster of Schoolkill, were married at Thomas Duckett's today.

Sept. 8, 1689. JOHN HOWELL and his wife MARY have been missing meetings. George Maris and Jacob Simcock were appointed to speak with them.

Oct. 7, 1689. JOHN HOWELL and MARY acknowledged friends' kindness.

Mar. 3, 1690. JOSIAH TAYLOR and ELIZABETH PENNELL declared their intention of marriage for the first time. They have the consent of their parents. JOHN EDGE and BARTHOLOMEW COPPOCK, JUNR., and Frances Bowater and Martha Ogdon were appointed to inquire into clearness.



Front and reverse side of silver teaspoon marked George Miller (silversmith) for Phoebe Massey, 1765. Table spoon—Seth Pancoast and Esther Coppock, 1741. See Quaker Diary entry for May 21, 1741.

Apr. 7, 1690. JOSIAH and ELIZABETH have cleared the meeting and have permission to proceed with their marriage.

Oct. 14, 1690. John Worrilaw, son of Thomas of Edgmont, and Ann Maris, daughter of George of Springfield, were married today at the home of BARTHOLOMEW COPPOCK JUNIOR in Springfield.

Mar. 7, 1692. WILLIAM HUNTLEY of Birmingham and MARY STANFIELD, daughter of FRANCIS of Marple, declared their intention of marriage. He is directed to bring a certificate from Concord Meeting. Lydia Wade and MARGARET COPPOCK are to visit her.

Apr. 4, 1692. William and Mary were given permission to proceed in marriage.

Oct. 2, 1693. Friends who viewed the land on which Thomas Norbury lives gave their judgment that it would be better for him to stay there rather than to remove and there would be less charge to friends if he did so. The meeting hath agreed to pay DANIEL WILLIAMSON six pounds for plowing and sowing his field.

Oct. 3, 1692. Two of the daughters of ROBERT TAYLOR*, PHEBE and MARY* came before the meeting today to declare their intentions of marriage, PHEBE to THOMAS MASSEY of Marple and MARY* to HENRY LEWIS* of Haverford.

Nov. 2, 1692. The meeting paid JONATHAN HAYES one pound eighteen shillings for a hog for Thomas Norbury.



Bartholomew Coppock house. Phebe Massey married him after Thomas Massey's death. House was on property of SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery and is now razed.

Sept. 2, 1695. BARTHOLOMEW COPPOCK and Thomas Minshall were appointed to inspect the orderly walking of friends within their meetings.

Aug. 3, 1696. Today, they paid Thomas Norbury five pounds toward building his house as was ordered by the friends of this monthly meeting.

Feb. 25, 1696/7. Because the meeting was informed of several misdemeanors committed by THOMAS,* JONATHAN, JACOB, and MARTHA TAYLOR, sons and daughter of MARY TAYLOR of Marple, ROBERT'S widow, the meeting decided to adjourn to Bartholomew Coppock, Senior's house on the second of next month to inquire into these matters and to clear the truth before the next session of the Court. Bartholomew Coppock, Senior, and George Maris, Senior, are to speak with THOMAS, JONATHAN, JACOB and MARTHA and to invite them to come to the meeting and answer the charges against them.

Mar. 2, 1696/7. At the meeting at Bartholomew Coppock's, THOMAS, JONATHAN, JACOB and MARTHA were spoken to and exhorted concerning their unseemly actions. THOMAS pleaded innocent and since there was nothing to say to the contrary, this was accepted. The others acknowledged their offences and condemned the same.

Mar. 27, 1697. JONATHAN, JACOB and MARTHA TAYLOR acknowledged their offences in open court and condemned the same.

Aug. 26, 1700. THOMAS TAYLOR brought a paper to the meeting wherein he condemned his taking too much liberty in drinking, riding, and unnecessary discourse, and also his taking a wife contrary to the truth. His brother JONATHAN brought a paper condemning his being overtaken in drink. The sense of the meeting was that the papers should be copied and fixed up at Springfield Meetinghouse and that they should both appear at the next County Court and pay their fines to answer the law. They were advised that they should take care that they committed no such or other evil practice in the future.

Apr. 27, 1702. JONATHAN TAYLOR and MARTHA HUGH declared their intention of marriage. Bartholomew Coppock, Senior and BARTHOLOMEW COPPOCK, JUNIOR were appointed to look into their clearness.

May 25, 1702. The meeting decided that, though JONATHAN TAYLOR'S conversation in some things "hath not always been as becomes the truth yet since he is desirous of taking his wife amongst friends, the meeting in tenderness towards him hath permitted him to do so."

Jan. 31, 1703/4. THOMAS PEARSON and Rees Hent were appointed overseers of the Springfield Meeting today.

Sept. 24, 1711. In order that friends may be more careful how they behave themselves at the election and fair, the monthly meeting appointed various friends to give a friendly caution to their respective meetings next first day. Bartholomew Coppock will speak at Springfield.

July 28, 1712. William Phillips of Newtown hath joined himself to the Baptists.

July 26, 1714. Griffith John and Ann Williams declared their intention of marriage. Philip Taylor and HUGH DAVID* were appointed to look into his clearness.

Aug. 30, 1714. Griffith John and Ann Williams were given permission to proceed with their marriage but the meeting desired that in the future none may be concerned with marriage at such a young age as Ann. She is only fourteen.

John Williamson acknowledged himself to blame for running a horse at Chester fair.

Apr. 25, 1715. For the preservation of our youth and others at the fair at Chester, the meeting appointed Caleb Pusey, John Sharpless, Thomas Vernon, and William Swaffer to attend the fair and report back to the monthly meeting.

July 25, 1715. There has been a concern come upon several friends belonging to this meeting concerning the importation of Negroes. After some talk the friends came to the unanimous sense today that friends should not be concerned in importing and selling Negroes.

Apr. 29, 1717. At today's meeting we considered the inconvenience of the frequent carrying about of glasses and cups with liquors at burials. The meeting agreed that it should be avoided in the future.

June 24, 1717. The meeting continued to consider drinking and other excesses. It was decided that friends concerned for the preservation of good order avoid all extravagant customs and drinking to excess in the approaching harvest season.

Nov. 24, 1718. Friends were cautioned that all, even those in the court, should be very careful that they stand clear in all cases involving taking or administering oaths. It is not only wrong to swear but it is also wrong to ask another to swear.

June 29, 1719. John Schollar and JANE COPPOCK, widow of JONATHAN of Marple, declared their intention of marriage. George Lownes and LAWRENCE PEARSON were appointed to see that her children's portions were secured.

July 27, 1719. The meeting today was concerned with the growing superfluity in apparel.

Feb. 29, 1719/20. The friends at Uwchlan complained of Thomas Fell for debt to John Cadwalader. He was advised to sell his plantation as soon as possible in order to pay his debts.

Apr. 26, 1725. JAMES BARTRAM and Elizabeth Maris declared intention to marry.

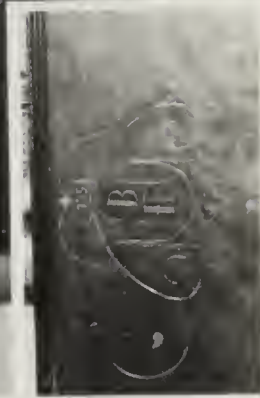
Apr. 22, 1731. REBECCA, daughter of ABIGAIL and JOSEPH RHOADS, married MORDECAI MASSEY at meeting today.

Jan. 20, 1734/5. MARY LEWIS requested a certificate to visit Great Britain in the service of truth with Rebecca Minshall.

Jan. 17, 1736/7. MARY LEWIS returned and made report to the meeting of her visit to friends in Great Britain.

Apr. 16, 1739. MARY LEWIS and Jane Elwall requested a certificate to visit friends meetings in New England.

May 21, 1741. SETH PANCOAST, son of William of Burlington, New Jersey, married BARTHOLOMEW COPPOCK'S daughter ESTHER today.



Wedding table made by James Bartram to mark his April, 1725 marriage to Elizabeth Maris. Views are with side open. Note date and initials on inset.



Photo by Robert Solby.

Highboy was the work of James Bartram

July 18, 1743. On inquiry today it was found that friends belonging to the meeting have been clear of importing and buying Negroes of late years.

July 29, 1754. JONATHAN MARIS informed the meeting this morning that he hath for a considerable time had a concern of ministry in the Love of Truth to visit friends in New Jersey and Long Island. The meeting agreed to give him a few lines by way of a certificate on that account. JAMES BARTRAM proposes to accompany him on the journey.

Nov. 25, 1754. JONATHAN MARIS and JAMES BARTRAM returned and brought a certificate from Westbury, Long Island, testifying to the benefit of their visit.

Sept. 26, 1757. ISAAC HOWELL of Marple informed the meeting that he finds, "freedom in the Love of Truth" to accompany Samuel Spavold to Carolina and requested a certificate.

Oct. 31, 1757. JONATHAN MARIS, son of JONATHAN, deceased, and ALICE EVANS, daughter of CADWALADER*, declared their intention of marriage. He brought a certificate from the Kennet Meeting and a note signifying his mother's consent.

Jan. 29, 1759. It was noted that after the overseers left the wedding of JAMES WORRALL some friends behaved in a disorderly manner.

Mar. 23, 1759. JAMES WORRALL'S wedding was again the subject of concern. It was found that PETER WORRALL, "the person intrusted with the care of the liquor kept unseasonable hours" and quarreled with LAWRENCE HOWARD. DANIEL BROOM also quarreled with HOWARD and "beat and abused him to a pretty great degree."

Mar. 28, 1760. The meeting was deeply concerned. JAMES BARTRAM and SETH PANCOAST have taken JOSEPH TANYER to Court over bonds each held on him, have received judgments against him, and have exposed his goods and effects to sale without applying for and taking the advice of the meeting in the matter. What is worse, so far the meeting has not been able to convince them of the breach they have made so as to bring them to condemning their actions to the satisfaction of the meeting. A committee was appointed to treat with them.

Apr. 28, 1760. JAMES BARTRAM signed a minute of acknowledgement and it is expected that SETH PANCOAST will do the same at the next meeting. They have also satisfied JOSEPH TANYER.

Sept. 25, 1760. JONATHAN MARIS announced that he was planning to visit meetings in the West Jerseys in his ministry and requested a few lines from the meeting.

Nov. 24, 1760. JONATHAN MARIS brought a good account of his service in the truth.

Oct. 25, 1762. JONATHAN MARIS has returned from his visits to Fairfax and Warrington meetings.

May 30, 1763. The friends appointed to treat with members of the meeting who have accepted public offices contrary to the advice of the Yearly Meeting reported that they had visited such as they apprehend are or have been principally concerned in enjoying the compliance of



Pancoast highboy.

others to acts they conscientiously scruple to perform and have endeavored to convince them of the inconsistency and danger of demanding oaths or of administering oaths to others, even to those who do not recognize the evil of the act of swearing.

February 25, 1765. The matter of such members of the meeting who are concerned with slaves has been revived. We are to urge such Friends as have any to think seriously on that just and impartial precept: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them."

George Miller and William Fell have been asked to visit all the members of the meeting who keep slaves and try to convince them of the inconsistency of the practice with the above precept and advise them as to the proper time and manner of setting them at liberty, and make report to a future meeting when their visits have been performed.

Aug. 25, 1766. ISAAC MARIS acknowledged that he and his wife ELIZABETH kept company without the consent of her father and were married by a priest.

Sept. 26, 1766. The meeting judged that ISAAC MARIS and ELIZABETH were not truly sensible of their misconduct and did not accept their acknowledgement.

Dec. 29, 1766. Today, the meeting accepted the acknowledgement of ELIZABETH and ISAAC MARIS.

Dec. 25, 1769. HANNAH OGDON and ELIZABETH RHOADS reported that from Nov. 28, 1768 to Dec. 25, 1769, they spent £16-9-1 on behalf of JUDITH BROOM, who is now very poor, and there is due to them 15/9. A collection brought £10-10-0 and the 15/9 was paid to HANNAH OGDON. The remainder was placed in the hands of Ann Thomson and ELIZABETH RHOADS for the use of JUDITH BROOM.

Apr. 5, 1771. There was talk today at meeting of reviving our past custom of religious visits to friends' families. It was pointed out that such visits were attended with ownings of truth and general advantages to those visited. We were asked to think on the matter.

May 8, 1772. I have heard that the friends at Goshen Meeting have resumed the custom of religious visits to friends' families. They are satisfied that it is a service in the Truth. They report that many friends took the visit as a kindness and expressed their pleasure in it. However, they acknowledged with sorrow that the spirit of the world has prevailed over many minds. This has caused the work to be laborious and attended with deep travail of spirit.

Jan. 25, 1773. JOSEPH HAYCOCK agreed today to meet with a committee appointed by the meeting to determine a matter in dispute between himself and Gideon Malin.

July 26, 1773. It was reported that all the members of the meeting owning slaves have been visited and urged "to restore to that injured people their undoubted natural right to liberty consistent with Christianity and the common rights of mankind." Since the visits several slaves have been set free.

Aug. 6, 1773. The friends at Newtown complained today against MARY MORRIS, JOHN MORRIS's daughter, for going out in her marriage to PHILIP MOORE and accomplishing it before a priest. Sarah Massey and Sarah Rees were appointed to join the men appointed to visit her.

Sept. 10, 1773. MARY (MORRIS) MOORE, it is said, appeared sensible to her misconduct and brought a paper condemning it which the meeting accepted subject to her future conduct.

Nov. 29, 1773. BENJAMIN POWELL refused to refer a matter in controversy with JAMES RHOADS to the committee appointed for that purpose. It is also understood that he used unbecoming language in addressing RHOADS.

June 27, 1774. BENJAMIN POWELL appeared today and said he intended to be more careful of his expressions in the future.

Jan. 30, 1775. An Epistle arrived today from the Meeting for Sufferings held at Philadelphia. It contained some good advice respecting the present situation of public affairs and a testimony from the meeting "against every usurpation of power and authority in opposition to the laws and government and against all combinations, insurrections, conspiracies, and illegal assemblies. The meeting taking these into solid consideration concluded that all members of this meeting who doth in any measure countenanet anything contrary to our religious principles ought to be treated with by the overseers and the preparatory meetings."

Oct. 30, 1775. Seventy pounds was collected for the use of the poor inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay and the providence adjacent.

July 29, 1776. ANN EVANS produced manumission papers for the Negro woman left her by her husband CADWALADER EVANS, named Sarah Tobias, and also for her children Peter and Charity, and likewise to secure the freedom of Sarah's daughter Ruth at the age of eighteen years.

May 26, 1777. NATHANIEL HOLLAND of Marple requested that he, his wife CATHARINE, and his children, MARY, THOMAS, JOHN, SARAH, SAMUEL, and NATHANIEL to be taken under the care of friends.

Aug. 25, 1777. Agreeable to the directions of the Yearly Meeting, Nathan Yarnall, William Fell, James Wood, George Miller, Daniel Sharpless, Richard Blackfan, Joseph Talbot, Junior were appointed to try to unite together in order to administer suitable advice and counsel to those that are or may be in need thereof at this time of outward commotion and trial. They are also to keep an account of the sufferings of friends within this meeting.

Dec. 29, 1777. ANN EVANS, Sarah Sharpless, Mary Sharpless, Abigail Swaffer were appointed to join the men friends in order to discourage "the too frequent use of spiritous liquors and visit those that keep houses of entertainment."

Jan. 26, 1778. JAMES RHOADS manumitted his Negro woman PATIENCE JOB.

Apr. 27, 1778. BENJAMIN POWELL acknowledged military activity.

Aug. 30, 1778. NATHANIEL HOLLAND and FAMILY were received in membership.

Oct. 26, 1778. A committee was appointed to promote Quaker schools.

May 31, 1779. HENRY LAWRENCE was testified against for assisting in paying a tax for military purposes.

Oct. 25, 1779. The meeting today decided to offer help and advice to free Negroes as well as to start a subscription to pay for schooling of free Negroes and old age assistance.

Jan. 29, 1781. NATHAN, JOHN, and AARON WORRALL, sons of BENJAMIN, are to be treated with for attending Muster Days. PHEBE WORRALL, their mother, is to be treated with for neglecting meetings and for countenancing her sons' behavior.

July 30, 1781. BENJAMIN PYLE was testified against for paying taxes for the purpose of hiring men to go in the army.

Oct. 25, 1784. It was reported that the wedding of HUGH LOWNES to REBECCA RHOADS was accomplished "with some solid weight and that likewise" at the place of entertainment a good degree of decency was maintained" yet that "true moderation which truth requires and hath been so often recommended by friends, was not so well kept as could be desired in some things."

Chapter 6

**THE FARMERS OF
MARPLE**

The Farmers of Marple

On the 22nd of October, 1683, 400 acres of land in Marple were surveyed to John Howell by a warrant dated October 20 (refer to Howell grant page 74, 75): 300 acres in right of Howell's purchase, 50 acres from Robert Taylor's purchase of 1000 acres, and 50 acres, headland. Both of the 50 acre tracts were from Daniel Williamson, Howell's brother-in-law who had come to Pennsylvania as a servant to Robert Taylor. Howell was simply holding the 50 acres which William Penn granted as headland to all who came as servants and the 50 acres Taylor had promised William when he completed his term of servitude. On July 25, 1684 William Penn confirmed the 400 acres to William Howell. This patent, signed by William Penn and carrying the great seal of the province, is today on display at the Marple Library.

In terms of today's roads, Howell's 300 acres extended from the Darby Creek, west along Lawrence Road to the Sproul Road, north on Sproul to Langford Road, and then east on a line parallel to Lawrence Road to the Darby Creek and down the Creek to the place of beginning. The house stood on the Great Marple Road, now Sproul Road, probably on or near the site of the Videon-Gibson Funeral home. Whether the original home was incorporated into the house now standing or was torn down is a moot question. The east end of the present home was built in 1730. The west end of the house presumably is "the new end of the house," mentioned in 1766 in the will of John Powell, grandson of John Howell, as the part in which he dwelt.

John Howell of Norcott in Over Whitley, Cheshire, married Mary Williamson by Quaker ceremony in Frandley, Cheshire in 1680. In 1683, John Howell, then living in Budworth, Cheshire, his wife, and daughter, Hannah, sailed on the "Endeavor of Liverpool" along with others from Cheshire who took up land in Marple: the Nicksons, Stanfields, Robert Taylor's wife and children, and Thomas Pearson, his wife Margery, his brother John, and his sister-in-law, Mary Smith (later wife of Daniel Williamson). The family groups arrived on September 29, 1683. Within a month all had taken up land in Marple. By late that year the Howells, Stanfields, and Pearsons had built their first homes. Howell on the east side of the Great Road (Sproul Road) and the Stanfields on the west side near the present Paxon-Hollow Road and the Pearsons to their south, below today's Crum Creek Road. The Taylors built in Springfield on their second tract and the Nicksons in Providence.

John Howell died in 1703 just about twenty years after he left England. He was survived by his wife Mary who married Walter Martin of Chichester in 1704; by his daughter Hannah, wife of Thomas Taylor, son of Robert; by Mary who married Joseph Powell in 1704; and by Bar-



Corner Sproul and Lawrence Rds. about 1918.



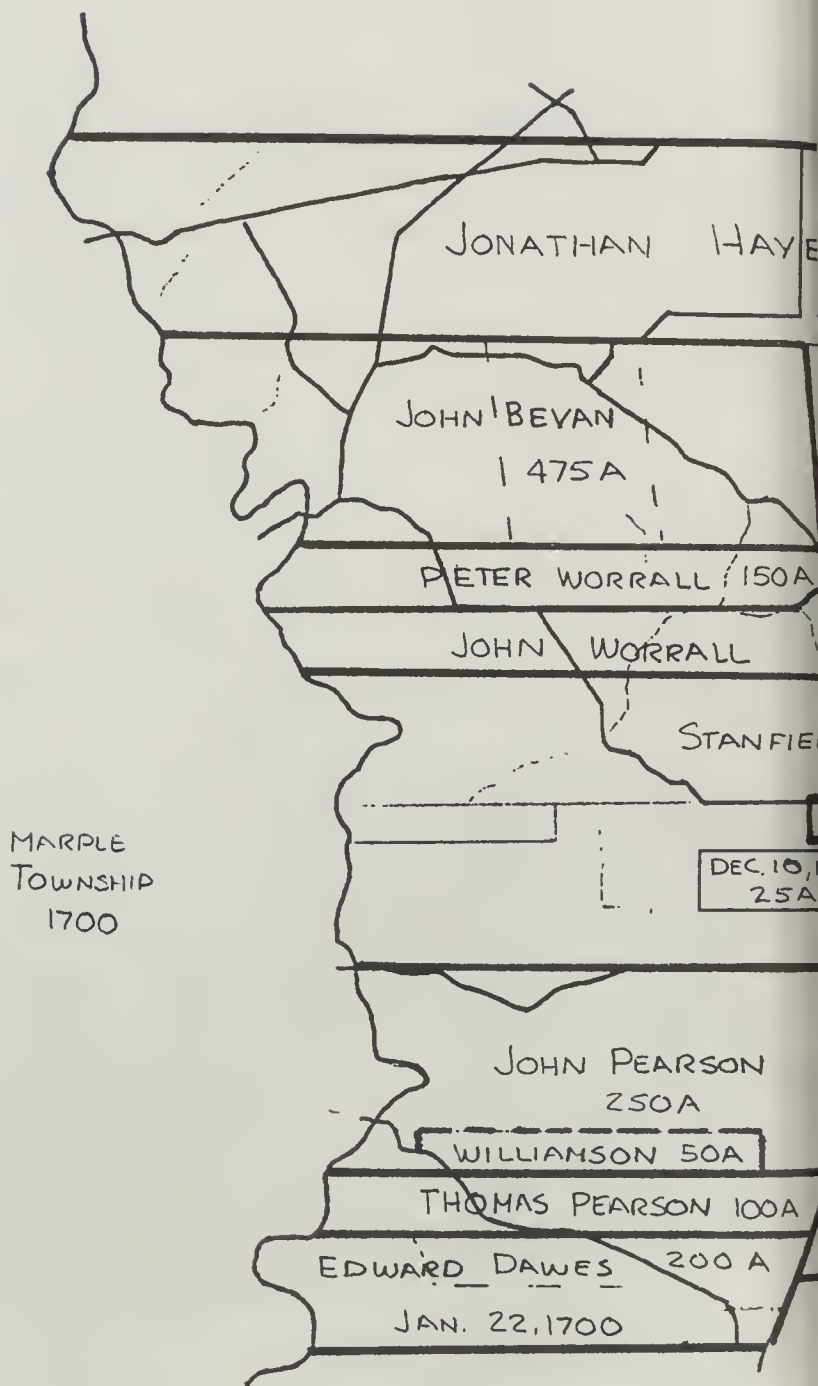
John Howell property—Sproul and Lawrence Rds. 1683—400 ac. grant.

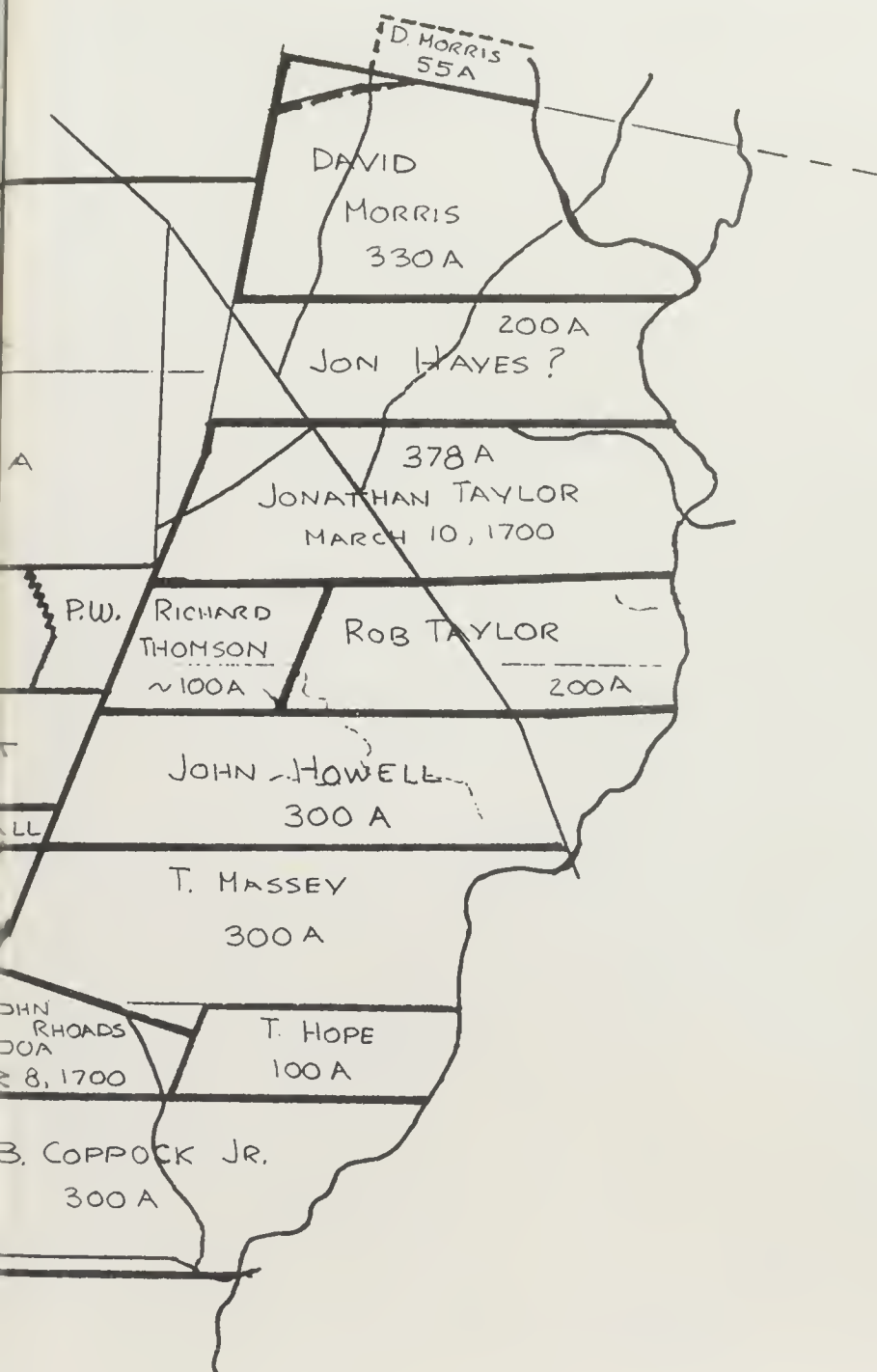
William Penn

Proprietary & Govern^r of y^e Province of Pensilvania
to witte these presents shallice & send
County of Chester Beginning at a corner
between North east & south east y^e y^e 1st
Two Acres to a corner then East by
corner White Oak then South West
to a corner East then South & by East
first mentioned East containing
half boering days y^e Twentieth day of
land out by y^e Surveyor & Gov^r of the
late Purchased Three Hundred Acres of
Traylor Purchase & Fifteen Acres more
requisting me to confirm y^e same by
firmes & by these presents for me my
John Horrell his Heirs & Assignes for ever
hold & enjoy y^e said land to y^e only use &
to be holden of me my Heirs & Successors
unto belonging as of Our Mannor
Socagd by y^e valty only his seating & in
Survey settling & paying therefore
first Month in every Year at Chester
Three Hundred Acres Purchased & One
person or persons as shal be from
whomsoever I have caused there my self
in y^e Twentieth day of y^e Fifth Mo
berne in the sixth Year of y^e King

Wm Penn

wisdoms of God & Kings Authority
 and y^e territories therunto belonging to
 saying Whereas there is a Tract of Land my
 & y^e coming y^e corner post of y^e Land of Chancery
 & y^e Land of y^e manors, mores thre hundred Eighty
 & thre up y^e corner of y^e Land of y^e manors
 by a line of y^e manors thre hundred & Eighty
 Acres One hundred Fifty four Acres
 Acres of y^e manors granted by a Writ from
 Month One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty
 and day of y^e Month of June unto John
 of his own manors & y^e Forty Acres in Pent
 of Williamson upon Rent & this is John
 I knowe y^e that I have given granted
 & y^e manors & y^e grant & confirm unto y^e
 & y^e Four Hundred Acres of Land & y^e manors
 of y^e Land of y^e manors his manors & y^e manors
 territories of y^e manors & y^e territories
 into Town in y^e County of y^e manors in y^e manors
 y^e Land & y^e manors One Year after y^e date
 my Heirs & Successors After upon y^e manors
 y^e County One English Silver Shilling for
 the Penny for every Acre and y^e manors
 manors appointed for that purpose I have
 manors & y^e manors witness my self at
 One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty
 & y^e manors of y^e manors





bara who married Walter Martin, Junior. His daughter Mary inherited the 300-acre farm in Marple. In 1728 Mary and her husband Joseph conveyed 100 acres to their son Joseph, Junior, aged twenty-three, perhaps on his marriage to Patience Worrall, daughter of Peter of Marple. In 1735 they granted 106 acres to their son James, aged twenty-seven. James never married and on his death in 1770 left the farm to his nephew Benjamin Powell. In 1752 Mary and Joseph conveyed the home farm to their son John, then aged forty-one, but retained a life right in the property. John did not marry until 1760, about the time of his father's death. The addition to the house was probably caused by the need to accommodate the two families. John, however, died in 1766—his son John Junior was only about three at the time and his mother widow of Joseph Powell was still living. The farm was rented out during the minority of the heir and then, in 1785, was sold by him to Joshua Lawrence, later of Marple and son of Henry Lawrence of Marple.

The inventory of John Howell, taken June 3, 1703, is unusually interesting. It provides an account of twenty years of effort in Marple during the period of original settlement, and it indicates that the effort was directed towards specialized farming for the market, not merely general family farming. John Howell paid 6 pounds for his 300 acres. In 1703 this land with its buildings and improvements was valued at £340 pounds. Furthermore, Howell, from Cheshire, had specialized in dairy farming: raising dairy cattle and producing butter and cheese for market. The inventory suggests a house, kitchen, and springhouse, a barn, cattle sheds, a hay barrack and wagon house, watered meadows, wheat fields, and a house garden. He owned two carts and two plows in a period when many farmers had none. Spinning wheels and wool were conspicuously absent from the list of household goods. He was leaving the manufacture of cloth to others. He was, however, raising pigs and perhaps calves for veal on the whey from the milk used in making cheese. His servant boy helped in the barn and fields; his wife and daughters worked in the dairy. In 1699 Howell invested in two lots in Chichester Township; his son-in-law Joseph Powell in a similar fashion purchased a lot in Wilmington in his lifetime. On the other hand, the Howells had few goods which were not strictly necessary. Furniture was at a minimum. There were no luxury items, no consumer goods, such as spice boxes and clocks. This would come later in the next generation.

John Howell laid the foundation for a prosperous farm before he died. His son-in-law Joseph enjoyed this farm for over fifty-five years. The inventories of Joseph Powell and his son John are interesting as indicators of change over time and also as indicators of the relationship existing in the household in 1760. Judging from the amount of livestock and implements listed in his inventory, Joseph Powell, then over seventy-five years of age, was clearly still in control of the farm which he had conveyed to his son almost ten years earlier.

Marple, the 3rd of June, 1703,

*Appraisement of the Estate, Goods, and Chattels of John Howell
who departed the 23rd of May, 1703.*

JOHN HOWELL: INVENTORY.

| | Pounds | Shill- ings | Pence |
|--|--------|----------------|-------|
| 6 milk cows (£28), a heifer and 2 yearling calves (£6) | 34 | 00 | 00 |
| 2 calves, 3 couple of sheep, 1 ewe | 34 | 08 | 00 |
| 1 sow, pigs, 1 boar and hogg | 5 | 08 | 00 |
| 3 horses with harness belonging to them | 3 | 00 | 00 |
| 2 carts, 2 plows and irons, cart rope and other ropes | 26 | 01 | 06 |
| 1 saddle and 2 bridles | 15 | 02 | 00 |
| 3 baskets, 5 sives with other small things | 1 | 14 | 00 |
| Mall and wedges, axes, mattocks, shovels, hoes, forks, collars, bell, garden rake | 0 | 13 | 00 |
| New iron, cross cut saws and 2 small saws | 2 | 13 | 00 |
| Agers, chisels, adz and hammer with other small tools | 1 | 03 | 00 |
| Churn and chees tub, pails, cheese fatt | 1 | 05 | 00 |
| Wooden bowls and plates and several other small things | 1 | 09 | 06 |
| Barrels and half barrels and rum casks | 0 | 12 | 00 |
| Cheese press, bottles, spitt and iron rods | 0 | 04 | 00 |
| Frying pans, gun, sheep shears | 0 | 13 | 00 |
| 3 butterpots and other pots, cheese and butter | 1 | 01 | 06 |
| Choping knife, cards, backstone | 4 | 07 | 04 |
| 2 rack chains, pot hooks, brandirons and tongs | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| Bell and lanthorn, tin ware, candlesticks | 0 | 16 | 00 |
| Brass pot, skillet, 2 kettles | 0 | 19 | 00 |
| Iron pots, 6 bottles | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| Pewter, looking glass, trenchers and butter print | 2 | 06 | 00 |
| Table and chairs | 6 | 10 | 00 |
| 2 beds, boulster and pillows | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| 3 pr blankets at—, 2 pr at— and 1 at— | 9 | 00 | 00 |
| 1 rug and coverlid, bed and boulster and pillows | 6 | 17 | 00 |
| 5 pr sheets, 12 yd towell, 10 bags | 2 | 16 | 00 |
| 1 bed and lumber in the kitchen | 8 | 06 | 00 |
| chests and boxes, 2 bedsteds and 2 bed cords | 1 | 17 | 00 |
| Buckskins, winowing sheet and other things | 2 | 09 | 00 |
| 1 servant boy [Alexander Nicholas] at— | 3 | 01 | 00 |
| Purse and wearing apparel | 18 | 00 | 00 |
| Bonds and other debts | 10 | 00 | 00 |
| 2 lots at Chichester | 41 | 09 | 00 |
| House and land, plantation and all improvements | 8 | 00 | 00 |
| 45 bushels of wheat at 3/6 | 340 | 00 | 00 |
| 65 bushels of wheat at Darby Mill at 4/per | 7 | 17 | 06 |
| | 13 | 02 | 00 |
| | 586 | 12 | 04 |

Exhibited June 19, 1703 taken by Thomas Massey on time—3—1703
Daniel Williamson
M Maddock
Bartholomew Coppock

An Inventory of the Goods & Chattels, Rights & Credits of John Powell of Hartsfield Township in Chester County, Deceased, as the same was shewed to us this third day of the 3^d month, 1766

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| To Wearing Apparel | 5 ⁰⁰ 14 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To Bed, Bedsteads and Furniture | 8 ⁰⁰ 15 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To Bed, Bedsteads and Furniture | 3 ⁰⁰ 15 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Case and Drawers | 3 ⁰⁰ 15 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To an Old Case of Drawers | 1 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Walnut Dressing | 3 ⁰⁰ 00 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Walnut Box | 0 ⁰⁰ 5 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Corns Cupboard & a poplar table | 0 ⁰⁰ 16 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Looking-glass | 0 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To Delft plates, Bowls and Sea ware | 0 ⁰⁰ 5 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Bed, Bedsteads & Furniture | 4 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Black Walnut Chest | 1 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Walnut Box | 0 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Trunk | 0 ⁰⁰ 7 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 2 Boxes one of Old Iron | 0 ⁰⁰ 7 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Cuckoo's Cradle | 0 ⁰⁰ 3 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To Bed, Bedsteads and Cloaths | 2 ⁰⁰ 00 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Chest of 3 Drawers a Chest of 2 drawers & 2 stools | 0 ⁰⁰ 18 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Chest of 2 and Cards | 0 ⁰⁰ 9 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Cask with Barley and flour | 0 ⁰⁰ 8 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 3 Caskets and 2 small Wooden Chests | 0 ⁰⁰ 9 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Walnut Table | 1 ⁰⁰ 5 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 2 Old Casks and 2 old Tables | 0 ⁰⁰ 9 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 2 Dutch plates & 2 old plates | 1 ⁰⁰ 2 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Brass Kettle & 2 Sea Kettle | 1 ⁰⁰ 9 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a frying pan & 2 Iron pots, 2 pitchforks & 2 Gridirons | 0 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 4 plates - 1 of Earthen & 3 of Wooden ware | 0 ⁰⁰ 13 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a pair of Slippers | 0 ⁰⁰ 6 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 2 Tongs & 2 fine shavers & 2 shavers | 0 ⁰⁰ 8 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To 6 Bags | 1 ⁰⁰ 5 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| To a Gun | 1 ⁰⁰ 0 ⁰⁰ 0 |
| | 77 ⁰⁰ 12 ⁰⁰ 0 |

Joseph Powell Inventory: 1766.

JOSEPH POWELL of MARPLE: INVENTORY.

Taken 3 mo. 9th, 1761 by Mordeca Morris and William Burns:

| | Pounds | Shill- ings | Pence |
|---|--------|----------------|-------|
| <i>Horse, wearing apparel etc. of Jos. Powell</i> | 10 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Cart</i> | 5 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Harrow</i> | 0 | 15 | 00 |
| <i>Plow & swingletrees</i> | 0 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>Gears chains</i> | 1 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>Sorrel horse</i> | 7 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Bed & bedding</i> | 10 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Light hay horse</i> | 7 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Large black cow</i> | 5 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Dun colored cow</i> | 5 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Red heifer</i> | 3 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Black cow & calf</i> | 4 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>2 heifers, 2 years old almost</i> | 4 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>6 acres of wheat</i> | 6 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>13 sheep & 5 lambs</i> | 5 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>2 hogs</i> | 1 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>Walnut box</i> | 0 | 15 | 00 |
| <i>Trunk</i> | 0 | 07 | 06 |
| <i>Bed & furniture</i> | 3 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Spinning wheel</i> | 0 | 05 | 00 |
| <i>8 bags</i> | 1 | 12 | 00 |
| <i>Chest</i> | 0 | 05 | 00 |
| <i>Couch</i> | 0 | 15 | 00 |
| <i>Cloaths press</i> | 4 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>2 Bibles</i> | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>8 chairs and a couch</i> | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Fire shovel & tongs</i> | 0 | 06 | 00 |
| <i>Sadle & bridle</i> | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Ovil table</i> | 1 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>Square oak table</i> | 0 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>Brass kettle</i> | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>6 pewter plates & 3 dishes</i> | 2 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>Drawers & warming pan</i> | 2 | 10 | 00 |
| <i>Lumber</i> | 1 | 00 | 00 |

Chapter 7

**THE MORRIS FAMILY:
A CENTURY OF GROWTH**

The Morris Family

On November 25, 1720, David Morris, weak of body but of sound mind, slowly dictated his will to his brother-in-law, Henry Lewis. The need to dispose of his temporal estate, to let go of his lands and earthly possessions, brought vividly to mind the years during which he had acquired them. He wondered how his sons and daughter would use them—and he could, he realized, no more foretell that than he could have foretold his own future when he had been their ages. He did not imagine as a boy in Wales that he would come to Pennsylvania, purchase a lot on Mulberry Street, and marry, as he did in 1685, the woman who owned the adjoining lot, Henry's half-sister Mary Philip. It was long ago that he and Mary sold their lots in Philadelphia and moved to the country. They had wanted to settle near her family in Haverford, but most of the land had already been taken up. There was just the 50 acres in Radnor, along the Marple line, the barrens, as everyone called them. But he had been fortunate. When Thomas Ellis died and his 330 acres in the northeastern corner of Marple had been put up for sale, he had been able to purchase them. He had paid only eighteen pounds for their tract. Today it was worth close to two hundred pounds.

Henry cleared his throat. Called back to the present, David continued, "I give and bequeath unto my eldest son David Morris one half of my land in the township of Marple being by estimation four hundred acres lying the north side of the tract with all the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging to him and his heirs and assigns forever upon condition that he pay to my daughter Elizabeth Morris the sum of thirty pounds . . . I give and bequeath my other two hundred acres of land in the township of Marple being the south side of my tract to my son Mordecay Morris . . . upon condition that he pay to my daughter Elizabeth Morris the sum of ten pounds. . . ."

The farm in Whitemarsh had always been intended for Isaac or Jonathan. One would have the land and the other the shares in the mill. If Mary had lived, would she have wanted Isaac to have the farm? "I give and bequeath unto my son Isaac Morris all my land and plantation lying in Whitemarsh Township in the County of Philadelphia containing by estimation three hundred and twenty-four acres . . . upon condition that he pay to my daughter Elizabeth Morris the sum of twenty-five pounds within two years after my decease." Two years should give him time to build up some savings, shouldn't it?

Business and family have been so intertwined: Henry is taking down my will; Samuel, his brother and my brother-in-law, is waiting to sign as a witness, but Samuel and my brother-in-law Richard Hayes are also my partners. How will they feel when Jonathan takes over my place in the

no. 2. The first being left to the National Bureau to fully provide

[illegible]

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mill? "I give and bequeath unto my son Jonathan Morris all my share being one third part of the grist mill in the township of Haverford upon Darby Creek and all my share of the boulting mills and scales and weights; it being one half and all my share of the land, buildings, and appurtenances belonging to the said mills . . . and all my share of the trading stock in Company with Richard Hayes. . . ." His voice trailed off. Jonathan was young. He was familiar with the work at the mill and with shipments to the Islands, to the Carolinas, and to Lisbon, but perhaps settling accounts required more experience in the world than he had had yet. With an effort he continued, "and I do request that my trusty and loving friend Robert Jones of Merion and my loving friend John Reece of New Castle may assist my son Jonathan Morris to settle the accounts depending between me and Richard Hayes that he may have his share. . . ."

David Morris's voice faded again. There were still the tools of a carpenter. "I give my son Mordecai Morris . . . one set of my best carpenter's tools . . . and my will is that the remainder of my carpenter's tools be equally divided between my son David and my son Jonathan, except it be those that are in my son Isaac's possession I leave to him." It was about finished. Soon he could rest.

Jonathan Morris, David's son, purchased a tract of 377 acres in Marple on March 10, 1720 for a sum of £210. The property extended from the Darby Creek almost to the Springfield Road. Within a few years (1723), he built for himself a twenty-four by twenty-four foot, two story log house. It stood on what today would be the northeast corner of Sproul Road and West Chester Pike, then farm land. When the building known



Jonathan Morris built in 1723 a two story log house 24 x 24'. The 1798 addition became "The Drove Tavern" northeast corner Sproul Rd. and West Chester Pike.

as the Drove Tavern was built in 1798, the masons attached it to this log structure, a fact which helps to explain why it was still standing in the center of Broomall in the middle of the twentieth century. Both buildings were razed when the Pike and Sproul Road were widened.

An old photograph of the house not only clearly shows its construction but also provides a perspective on house sizes. Judged by the dimensions given for houses in Marple in the Federal Tax of 1798, this log house was of above average size.

Jonathan Morris married Katharine Moore of Radnor in 1726. It can be assumed that the couple was living here with their five children when Jonathan died in 1741, at the age of 49. His inventory enables us to recreate his home in its farm setting in that year and, when combined with his will, enables us to see, if only dimly, the directions his life was taking. The house furnishings suggest a level of comfort above that generally found in country homes of the period, the tea table, tea kettle, desk, table cloth and napkins, and clothes press suggest that these might be William Worrall's "more refined" neighbors. The best feather bed would have been for the adults, the boys would have shared one of the other beds and the girls the other. Hannah was probably still in the cradle. The chaf bed was probably in the garrett above the second floor where the slaves may have lived.

The Morris property was a well-equipped and well-stocked farm and probably had an air of prosperity. There would have been a barn near the house. The fenced meadows would have been to the front of the house to take advantage of the network of small streams which came together on the property to form Langford Run. The springhouse was probably located over one of these streams. Jonathan had sowed his wheat and rye together as was common. He had also planted and harvested oats, buckwheat, and barley. The corn was still standing in the field when the inventory was taken. The value of the hay crop indicates that he wintered his stock and suggests cattle and sheep sheds for winter protection. Sheds, in turn, mean manure for the fields. The smith's bellows, cooper's tools, and carpenter's tools (the last inherited from his father) suggest that he was making flour casks or barrel hoops. Two slaves would have been expensive labor for a farm devoted simply to grain and grazing. There would have been many hours when, given the seasonal nature of work on such a farm, the slaves would have little to do.

What happened to Jonathan's shares in the mill? The records found to date do not tell us. Richard Hayes' Account Book for Haverford (or Hayes') Mill list payments to both Isaac and Jonathan Morris for tending mill in the years preceding David's death. But between 1721 and 1726 Jonathan only appears in the accounts as a customer. There is nothing to indicate that he was a partner. However, there is also nothing in the accounts prior to 1720 to indicate that Samuel Lewis and David Morris were partners with Hayes. We can infer that Jonathan sold his shares between 1721 and 1741 since there is no mention of them in the will. On the other hand, Jonathan was not merely a subsistence farmer. The lease

lot in Wilmington suggests that he was still involved in shipping or trading and that this lot was a business property, perhaps a shed or a warehouse.

In the matter of land we are on firm ground. In 1740 Jonathan sold 130 acres along the Darby Creek to Charles Moore. In the following year, by will, he divided his remaining acres between his sons (both minors): Samuel was to have the house and plantation, and Jonathan was to have the lands east of the Radnor Road. In those days the road followed, roughly speaking, the line of today's Sproul Road from Radnor to Marple Road but then, instead of turning right, continued along Church Street and along a line approximately following West Greenhill and then below Jonathan's lands cut diagonally over to the main road.

The daughters each received cash legacies to be paid by their brothers after they came into their lands. To Katharine, his wife, he gave one-third of his personal estate and one-third of the profits of his real estate during the minority of his sons. She was to have the privilege of living in whichever room in the dwelling house she thought best during her widowhood, the privilege of firewood brought to her by Samuel and one cow and horse for her own use, as well as other "reasonable" rights. The balance of the real and personal estate was to be used to maintain and bring up the children and to pay for the apprenticeships for Samuel and Jonathan. Since his wife would lose her income from the real estate when their sons came of age, Jonathan stipulated that when they took possession of their lands they should assume responsibility for providing their mother with a cash income, two pounds yearly from Jonathan and four from Samuel who had received the more valuable tract. Jonathan's provisions for his wife & children are typical of the period.

Jonathan Morris, Jr. was twelve when his father died. The will stated specifically that he should be bound an apprentice to such a trade as he with the advice of his mother and his uncle Francis Yarnall, the executors, thought best. But Jonathan wanted to be a doctor. It is said that his uncle Moredecai Morris protested vigorously: farming and carpentry had served the family well and would serve young Jonathan well. Jonathan had his wish in the end. In about 1745 Dr. Thomas Bard of Philadelphia accepted him as a medical student. When Bard removed to New York to assume charge of a garrison hospital, Jonathan accompanied him and added surgery to his studies.

In 1750 Dr. Jonathan Morris returned to Marple, mortgaged the lands inherited from his father for £60 and moved to Newtown to begin the practice of medicine. In 1752 he sold the mortgaged land to Charles Moore. In 1757 he purchased land in East Marlborough, married Alice, daughter of Cadwalader Evans of Edgmont, and set up a new practice in Marlborough. However, in 1771 he purchased a 126 acre farm in Marple, bounded on the west by the Newtown Road (Route 252) from the estate of his late father-in-law. In 1775 he bought 71 acres adjoining the 126 acres on the north. Taken together the two tracts extended from today's Media Line Road on the north to Palmer's Mill Road on the south. Within the

next year he returned to Marple with his wife and nine children. It is possible that before moving he had the house built in which he was living in 1793.

To be sold pursuant to last will and testament of Cadwalader Evans, late of Edgmont, in the County of Chester, dec'd by Public Sale, on 5th of May next, on the premises, a certain plantation or tract of land, situate in the Township of Marple, in Co. aforesaid, bounded by lands of Charles Linn, Jonathan Worrall, and Joshua Pennell, containing 100 acres or thereabouts, 60 acres cleared, with 7 or 8 acres of good watered meadow, and more may be made, with a log dwelling house and good log barn, etc. Any persons inclining to view the premises before the day of Sale may apply to Alexander Oliver, living on the place. The Sale to begin at 2 o'clock on sd day where due attendance and terms of sale will be made known by Ann Evans and Thomas Evans, Execrs

(Pa. Gaz., April 19, 1770)

Plantation Marple. About 14 miles to Philadelphia. 210 acres, situation is pleasant and healthy, good stone dwelling house, two stories, 36 ft front and 30 ft deep, 4 rooms lower floor and five on upper, good stone barn 45 ft front and 30 ft deep. Cellared under for stables, cow houses, etc. And on one end of plantation a good house, stabling, orchards, etc. for tenant. Two other orchards, now in their prime, 25 acres good meadow, 75 acres woodland, good part of arable land has been limed and produces good crops. Good repair. Enquire Stephen Collins, merchant of Phila. or Dr. Jon. Morris on premises.

May 8, 1793



Jonathan Morris Circle (in 1985) House ca. 1775.

Jonathan Morris had a long life, 1729 to 1819, and an extremely full one. His skills as a surgeon won official recognition during the Revolution as did his courage in behalf of the American cause. However, let us move back into the period when he was a very young man with his medical education recently completed. And let us shift the focus to include his cousin John, son of David Morris, Jr. and grandson of David, who died in 1720. David Morris, Jr. and inherited the northern half of his father's farm, 226 acres extending from the Darby Creek across the north eastern tip of the township to the Newtown line and extending slightly over the Radnor line. He died in 1729. John, the oldest of his five children, was about ten years of age. Mary, the widow, married as her second husband Francis Yarnall, the Francis Yarnall who was later (1741) named an executor of the will of Jonathan Morris. Yarnall, a weaver and farmer of Willistown, was an active Quaker and, for a period, was a member of the Assembly. He would have had considerable effect on the lives of his step-children—John, Elizabeth, and David Morris—and also on the family of his friend Jonathan Morris, including the young Jonathan.

JOHN MORRIS

To be sold by the subscriber, a plantation, situate in Marple township, Chester County, about 12 miles distant from Philadelphia, containing 227 acres of good land, joining on Darby Creek, about half thereof cleared, with a good stone house, frame barn, stables and other out houses, and an orchard, about 40 acres of meadow, already cleared, the greatest part upland, well watered and considerable more may be made. Any person inclining to purchase, may apply to the subscriber hereof, living in Newtown, in County aforesaid, and know the terms. The title indisputable.

John Morris

(Pa. Gaz., March 19, 1750/1.)

In the fall of 1750 John Morris moved to the tavern on the southwest corner of Newtown Street Road and Goshen Road. His cousin Jonathan, just returned from New York, joined him, probably he took a room at the inn. It seems that during this period John West and his family were renting a house nearby and John was keeping a store. John's wife Sarah was the daughter of Thomas Pearson who had settled in Marple in 1683 and the families were well acquainted. Benjamin, one can imagine, was in and out of the inn. Perhaps he worked for John when he was not needed by his father. A bond developed between the three: John, who had sold his family farm in search of new opportunities; Jonathan, who was in the process of selling his farm in Marple and establishing his life as a doctor, and Benjamin, a boy who wanted to break out of the mold to become a painter. It was a friendship such that in 1796 Jonathan would write to Benjamin: "Neither time nor distance has abated that sincere friendship that formerly existed between us, and I may say as David did to Jonathan, it shall last beyond the grave."

I have deposited here long & many goods & cattle & Cattle
 and have for some time of the above named Laid off many to
 in the County of Chester & Province of Pennsylvania I have
 Deceased before & granted by us whose names are here subscribed
 as at this English Day of October in the ~~Year~~ ^{Year} of his
 Majesty King George the Second the first of Great Britain
 the 17th Decr 1740 as follows

| | | | | |
|----------|--|---|---|---------|
| Tryninus | To raised & wearing apparell | - | - | 10 0 0 |
| H | To Horses mares & Cattle | - | - | 18 0 0 |
| H | To 18 Skuff | - | - | 4 5 0 |
| H | To 6 Cows | - | - | 16 10 0 |
| H | To 6 young Cattle | - | - | 8 0 0 |
| H | To 8 Hogs | - | - | 4 0 0 |
| H | To 2 places of Irons, Swinget, Trees & Harrow | - | - | 2 0 0 |
| H | To 12 Cart & Hens | - | - | 6 15 0 |
| H | To 1 Cutting box & Hinge & Knife & other small | - | - | 1 0 0 |
| H | To wheat & Hay | - | - | 10 0 0 |
| H | To oats & barley & buckwheat | - | - | 6 0 0 |
| H | To Hay | - | - | 7 0 0 |
| H | To Corn in ground | - | - | 5 12 0 |
| H | To 12 milk bellows | - | - | 1 15 0 |
| H | To 2 Acres Malt & wages & 12 Malters | - | - | 2 14 0 |
| H | To Carpenter Tools | - | - | 0 15 0 |
| H | To Carpenter Tools | - | - | 2 10 0 |
| H | To 12 Grinding Stone & 12 Sifts & Hurdles | - | - | 0 15 0 |
| H | To 1 best Yellow bed & furniture | - | - | 10 0 0 |
| H | To Ditto | - | - | 8 0 0 |
| H | To Ditto | - | - | 7 0 0 |
| H | To 1 best Yellow bed | - | - | 0 15 0 |
| H | To 2 Pair of Sheets | - | - | 1 4 0 |
| H | To 12 best & small square Table & 12 small | - | - | 4 10 0 |
| H | To 12 best & small square Table & 12 small | - | - | 5 10 0 |

| | | |
|-------|--|----------|
| Item | To 100 lb. of Sugar | 2 0 0 |
| H | To 10 lb. of Tobacco | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 0 5 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 2 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 3 10 0 |
| H | To 200 lb. of Potatoes & 100 lb. of Corn | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 0 10 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 0 4 6 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 7 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 0 10 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 0 10 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 0 4 6 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 0 5 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 0 10 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 2 5 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 2 5 6 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 1 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 32 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 2 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn & 100 lb. of Potatoes | 10 0 0 |
| H | To 100 lb. of Corn | 0 14 0 |
| Total | | 223 11 6 |

Summed by us
 Thomas T. Woolley
 Clerk

Be it Remembered that on the twelfth day of
September in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven
hundred and forty and five Jonathan a Norris of Maryland
Township in the County of Chester and Province of
Pennsylvania Yeoman Being sick and Indisposed in
Body but of sound & perfect Memory and understand-
ing (praised be God) And falling to mind the uncer-
tainty of this life Do make and put in writing this
my last will and Testament In manner & form following
(That is to say) first I recommend my Soul to Almighty
God And my Body to the Earth to be Decently
Buried at the Discretion of my Executors therein
after named And as Touching the Disposal of
such worldly Estate as the Lord hath been pleased
to bestow on my Body is the same shall be Employed
and disposed as followeth:

First I will that all my Just debts and funeral Charges
be paid and Discharged

And I give and Bequeath unto my Loving wife Katherine my
best Bed and Furniture therein belonging And the one third
third part of all my personal Estate And one third part of the
profits of my Real Estate During the minority of my three
Sons And the other two thirds of my personal with the other
two thirds of the yearly profits of the Real to be toward the
Maintenance and bringing up of my Children During their Minority
at the Discretion of my Executors And as Touching the disposal
of my house plantation and Tract of Land thereunto belonging
I will that my Loving wife shall have the privilege of
Living in such Room of the Dwelling house as she shall best
During her Widowhood And the privilege of having a range
to the house by my ground at low Tammes And also the privilege
of one Cow and two Hogs for her own Service with other
Reasonable prohibitions And I give & Bequeath unto my said
Widow Katherine a sum of one hundred and fifty pounds in and
out of hand I now live and all that part of my Land to the best
side of the Road (common called Sadlers Road) To hold to him
his Heirs & Assigns forever he or they use the same as a house
following (that is to say) when he shall attain the full Age of twenty
one years to wit to Enjoy and take possession of the same Estate
then my will is that he yearly pay or cause to be paid to his
Mother the sum of four pounds and six shillings of Pennsylvania

And after and During his naturall life the first payment to be
 paid him the space of one year after he doth attain the full age of
 twenty one years as aforesaid And also that he pay or cause to be paid
 to his two Sisters Phoebe & Hannah the full sum of twenty pounds
 a piece within the space of one year after he doth attain the age of
 twenty one years And the Remainder of my Land to the East of the Road aforesaid
 give & bequeath the same unto my eldest Son Jonathan To hold
 to him his Heirs & Assigns forever he is paying or causing to be paid
 to his Mother the full sum of forty Shillings Lawfull Money aforesaid
 yearly for and During her naturall life the first payment to be
 made in the space of one year after he doth attain the full age of
 twenty one years at which time he is to Enjoy the Estate aforesaid
 And also that he pay or cause to be paid to his Sister Mary the full
 sum of twenty pounds Money aforesaid in the space of one year
 after he doth attain his full Age aforesaid And my will is that
 my said two Sons shall be bound Apprentices when they come
 of suitable Age At the Discretion of my Executors to such Trade
 or trade as they with the advice & Consent of my said Executors shall
 think best Provided Always and my will is that in Case the
 two thirds of my personal Estate with the yearly profits of the
 two thirds at the least shall not be sufficient to maintain and
 Bring up my Children aforesaid During their Minority Then I
 do hereby Impower my Executors herein after named to Sell
 such part or parts of my said Land as to them shall be thought
 proper towards the Bringing up & maintaining my Children
 aforesaid And to make a good Title to the purchase or purchase of
 thereof Also in Case any of my Children dying before they attain
 their full Age to receive their particular portions the same or
 Shares as such as dying to be Equally Divided between the
 Survivors And I do nominate and Appoint my said Loving wife
 Katherine and my Brother in law Francis Gurnall Executors of
 this my last will & Testament Speaking all these former wills or
 words by me made or Declared either by word or writing And
 Declaring this to be my last will & Testament In Witnesse
 whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal the day and Year
 first within written

Signed sealed published and Declared
 by Jonathan Morris to be his last will
 and Testament in the sight & presence
 of us the Subscribers

Jonathan Morris

Mordecai Morris
 John Morris
 James

Proved in Court
 July 21st 1741



*Robert
Morris
by
Benjamin
West*



*Jane Morris
by
Benjamin
West*

The portraits of Jane and Robert Morris, children of John Morris, remain as a memento of that friendship. It is easy to imagine what happened. Benjamin, who loved to draw, sketched the children as he sat talking to the two older men. John or, perhaps, his wife, Elizabeth, suggested that Jonathan buy paints and canvas on his next trip to Philadelphia. Benjamin, delighted with the commission and delighted to have the fine paints, set to work to paint the children in the stylized manner of the period.

In 1755 John West again took license to the tavern. John Morris returned to Marple where he rented a substantial farm and invested in milling for perhaps ten years. He then settled on the 200-acre farm left to his family by his deceased father-in-law, Robert Taylor. There we again followed his trade as a weaver. The pictures hung in his home and then, in time, passed into the hands of his grandson William Moore, son of Philip and Mary (Morris). Today, the Chester County Historical Society owns the paintings. Jonathan left Newtown soon after his cousin did, married and established a practice in East Marlborough. Benjamin went on to Lancaster and Philadelphia, and in 1760 sailed for Europe.

Chapter 8

THE POOR OF MARPLE

The Poor of Marple

In celebrating the first 100 years of Marple's history we celebrate the spirit of enterprise and adventure and stress the opportunities and successes. But life was not always good. Not everyone was able to climb the ladder of success nor even to make a good life for themselves at the bottom of the ladder. Some people were simply unlucky.

Daniel Tice, it seemed, never had much of a chance. But let him recount his experiences as he told them to Justice William Moore 28th of February, 1765: "Your Honor, I decided in 1753 that I would leave Germany and come to Pennsylvania. Nicholas Teetrick agreed to advance my passage money and I signed an Indenture of Servitude for the term of five years. When I left the ship Nicholas immediately took me up to Strasburg Township in Lancaster County where I served him for about five weeks or thereabouts. Then he (Nicholas) moved to his brother-in-law's," Baltes Pesser's, where I lived with Nicholas for about two months. From thence I was removed to a plantation belonging to Nicholas where I believe I completed one year's servitude with him. Maybe I only lived with him five or six months after we left Baltes Pesser's. I do not remember in what township Nicholas's plantation was situated. Nicholas sold me to Frederick Peckle with whom I lived in the same township where Nicholas lived when he lived with his brother-in-law, Baltes Pesser. I think it was Earl Township, Lancaster County. But I am not sure. Then I was sold to Frederick Sager with whom I lived, I think, about a year and two months but I do not remember the name of the township. Then I enlisted in the King's Service under Colonel Bouquet and served three years. By then the term of Indenture had expired. After I returned and was discharged from his Majesty's service, I came to Haverford where I married Hannah Huster, the woman lately sent as a poor person to Newtown Township, by whom I had three children: Christopher and Catherine, who are now alive, and Mary, now dead. The two children who are alive were both born in Marple where I lived with my wife about two years and a half. We were married by a Dutch Lutheran Minister in Haverford but I have forgotten his name."

* * * *

In the colonial period the poor, such as Tice and his family, became the responsibility of the township where they had last established legal residence. The persons immediately concerned were the overseers of the poor in the townships where the case arose. They looked into the matter to determine whether the individuals in need were legal residents of the township. If they indeed were, the overseers were required to try to find work for those able to work, and they were empowered, if necessary, to levy a tax within the township to provide relief in the form of food,

shelter, and clothing, perhaps nursing care and burial and to bind out the children to someone who would maintain them, teach them a useful trade, and when they were of age, provide them with a suit of clothes and send them forth to earn their way. In the case of when the needy were not legal residents, the overseers were responsible for determining legal residence and for arranging the return of burdensome charges to that township. Customarily, the entire family of the pauper was returned to the place of residence of the head of the family.

In the judgment of James Worrall and James Rhoads, overseers of the poor for Marple Township in 1765, Daniel Tice was not a legal resident of the township. But it was not clear to them where, if anywhere, he had established such a residence. They sought the council of the Justices of the Peace and were advised to take the next option open to them: send Tice's wife and children back to her last legal residence, Newtown. Newtown appealed the decision in February 1765. The Chester County Court of Quarter Sessions "on hearing Council learned in the law" ruled for Newtown. The order of removal and maintenance directed to Newtown was annulled, the paupers were to be returned to Marple, and Marple was to pay the costs of the suit. It can be assumed that in accordance with the law, the children were placed by the township as apprentices to earn their keep and to learn a trade that they "might not grow up to be a burden to society." The overseers of the poor also undoubtedly found work for Daniel and his wife so that they could contribute to their own support.

In general the provisions for maintaining the poor and disabled worked relatively well for long-established residents. If you had grown up in Marple or lived there most of your adult life, you could depend on the township for efficient and probably compassionate care in times of need. It was the newcomer who was at a disadvantage. Communities protected themselves from the costs of poor relief by keeping persons who might become burdens from settling among them or by pushing them on before they could establish legal residence. If by chance, a newcomer did establish residence and then became needy, the instinctive reaction of the overseers seems to have been to determine if perhaps someone else should be assuming the responsibility. Did he or she have a son or father who should be providing this care? The reality of this problem is indicated in the petition of William Gandey.

In December 1736 William Gandey, a man of some education, addressed the Justice of the County Court. He was, he explained, a cripple. He had lost a leg and was "pretty hard set to get a livelihood." He had gained legal residence in Marple by renting a plantation there at five pounds per year. He had paid the county tax and made Marple his home for over six years. Now in spite of all of this the township had "a design of sending him away." Gandey petitioned the Court to intervene! "Let me have some place of settlement as I may do something towards my maintenance."

Legal residence was established by the payment of the yearly rent of

This 2^d Day of February in the Year of Our Lord 1765.
Before me William Moore Esq^r & He Came Daniel Tice who being Sworn
on the Holy Evangelist did Depose & say That in the Year One thousand
seven Hundred and fifty Three he Came from Germany into the City
of Philadelphia and in Order to pay his passage money, which was
Advanced by Nicholas Teitrick he Agreed to serve him five Years and
for that purpose Executed an Indenture of Servitude for that Term.
That the Said Nicholas immediately Carried him Up to St Asburg
Township in Lancaster County where he served with the Said
Nicholas five weeks or thereabouts & from whence the Said Nicholas
Removed to his Mother in Law, Bettes Peffer where he thinks
he lived two Months with said Nicholas, and from there was Remov-
ed by the Said Nicholas to a Plantation of the Said Nicholas where
he Believes he continued nearly two Years Servitude with him, But
Being Crossed in mind Says he Believes he lived with his Master
After Removing from Bettes Peffer about five or six Months.
But Does not know in what Township his Masters Said Plantation
is Situated. That thereupon he was Sold to Frederick Peckle with
whom he thinks he lived one Year in the Same Township where the
Said Nicholas lived when he lived with his Brother in Law
Bettes Peffer which he thinks was in East Town Township Lancaster
County. But Being Crossed in mind Says he Cannot remember in
what Township he lived with Frederick Peckle. That Afterwards
he was Sold to Frederick Sager with whom he thinks he lived
about a Year or two Months but does not Remember the Name
of the Township, After which he enlisted in the Kings Service
Under Col. Bouquet and served three Years & half After the
Term of his Service expired, And the Said Dependent
Further saith that after his Return & Discharge from his aforesaid
Service he Came to Lancaster where he was Married to Hannah
Kuff, the woman lately Sent as a Poor Person to Gettysburg
Township By whom he had three Children Gifford & Catharine
Constance & Mary now Dead, And that he is Certain that the
Year of his Marriage was the Year One thousand seven hundred and
thirty three he lived with his wife one & two Years & half.

as a tax in By and was there
"and for the same reason" to the
"and for the same reason" to the

and for the same reason

1100

Statement of Daniel Tice, signed with his mark "X".

five pounds and Gandey appeared on the county tax lists for Marple from 1724 to 1727. It was probably after 1727 that he lost his leg. It is likely that from the time of his accident he was excused from the county tax as "too poor to pay" or "discounted because a cripple." By 1736 it was clear that he was apt to become a charge of the township. But to a rural community Gandey would still be only a newcomer: Shouldn't he go back wherever it was that he came from? As in the case of Tice, we lack the records necessary to carry the case to its final resolution. The Marple township Book containing the records of the overseers of the poor has unfortunately disappeared.

To the Honourable Judges of the Court of Common Pleas
held at Westminster the 17th of Decr 1730

The Petition of William Gandy of the County of York
in the County of York

Sheweth

That whereas your Petitioner is a Cripple by reason of the
Loss of one Legg And is very hard to be got
to any place and your Petitioner has gained a settlement
in the County of York by buying a plantation at Gainsborough
for your Petitioner and his wife and children for
and it has bin the place of my abode this 12 years and
now the Townshipp has a Designe of sending me away
and for as much as your Petitioner would be obliged to let me
have some place of a little amount at least to something
toward my maintenance - and your Petitioner's Duty
shall ever remain

William Gandy


Petition of William Gandy

Chapter 9

**THE MERCHANTS OF
MARPLE**

The Merchants of Marple

Just imported from England, and to be sold by
J O S H U A W A Y,
In Wilmington,

A Large assortment of check, white linnen and diapers, rugs, blankets and coverlids, sail duck, from No. 1 to 6, and a large assortment of iron-mongery ware, brass kettles and brass mounting, for joiners, broad-cloths, and sundry other stuffs. Likewise to be sold by said Way, good Jamaica spirits, by the hoghead, and sugar, by the barrel, with divers other goods, cheap for ready money, or short credit. 

"My affairs lie very wide spread through this country, also Barbadoes and England. I was not brought up a merchant and, therefore, my accounts are not in regular order. I do not have proper accounts with the merchants in England and the West Indies, but I believe by my books and invoices and letters, thou may come to an understanding of my affairs." So in 1751 the dying Joshua Way, merchant of Wilmington and one time Marple artisan-farmer, addressed David Ferris, an executor of his will.

There is a natural tendency, in recreating the past, to separate the rural from the urban. Yet a substantial number of the Marple householders had business in Philadelphia, Wilmington, or in the ports visited by ships sailing from the two cities. Some of these persons remained in the countryside. Others moved to the city. Joshua Way, one of the early founders of Wilmington, is an interesting example of a Marple farmer and artisan who became an urban merchant.

Joshua Way of Edgmont Township, son of Robert, deceased, married Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Phebe (Taylor) Lewis of Edgmont, at Middletown Meeting on November 18, 1731. Joshua was twenty years of age and Elizabeth eighteen. The couple remained in Edgmont for several years, but in 1733 or 1734 they moved to Marple where they either rented or purchased the farm on Crum Creek, owned in 1728 by Thomas West, cooper of Concord, and which earlier had been the farm of Enoch Pearson. The house probably stood along what is now Old State Road. We can assume that during his years in Marple, Joshua, a joiner by trade, divided his time between the cultivation of his fields and the manufacture of furniture or fine paneling. We know that his wife Elizabeth was the grand daughter of Joshua Taylor, late of Marple, and the niece of Robert Taylor, the younger, of Marple. She was a kinsman of the Morris family through marriage. In settling in Marple she was settling among family

friends and relatives, probably a factor of importance to a young farmer's wife. It seemed likely that the Ways would live the lives to which they had been "brought up" in Marple. But Joshua and his family did not remain in Marple. A new opportunity opened: Wilmington.

Wilmington in 1736 existed primarily on paper. Thomas Willing had recognized the natural advantages of the site, then owned by his father-in-law, as a port. He had laid it out in the orderly grid fashion of Philadelphia but had lacked the money to promote the venture. There seems to be some truth in the report that Elizabeth Shipley brought the plan to life. As a young woman Elizabeth dreamt that she journeyed south from Springfield. In her dream she came upon a site which her companion told her was destined for great prosperity; he prophesied that she and her husband would settle there and bring "great benefit" to the place. A number of years later, Elizabeth, then a minister among Friends and the wife of William Shipley, traveled along the King's Road on a religious visit to Friends in Delaware and Maryland. She came to the top of a hill, and, looking out, she "beheld the scene of her dream." On her return she described the experience to her husband and told him of her conviction that they had been directed to "cast their fortunes" with the settlement.

Wilmington was, as Thomas Willing recognized, the natural port for the flour of the Brandywine mills and for the area drained by the Brandywine and Christiana Rivers. Wilmington was destined to prosper. But William Shipley probably would never have become an important figure in the building of that port without his wife's sense of destiny. He would not have gone to look, come back to ponder, and then gone on to assume leadership. With Shipley went other members of the Springfield Meeting as both investors and as settlers. In 1736 Joshua Way requested a certificate of removal from the Chester Monthly Meeting to the Newark-Kennett Meeting for himself and his family.

"At great charge" the group purchased lots, built their houses, removed with their families, and improved their holdings. In November 1739, thanks to their "industry and expense," the new town was "in a flourishing condition." In the name of King George II the tract was declared a borough, henceforth to be called by the name of Wilmington. William Shipley and Thomas West (the former Marple landowner) were appointed burgesses. Joshua Way was one of the six appointed to assist them.

Later in a petition to the Court at New Castle regarding compensation for his trouble over the estate of the late Joshua Way, David Ferris recalled his conversation with his dying friend: "I owe a pretty deal of money and it is time it was paid. Some has lain too long already. I have some money in the house which will help. I don't owe any sums of value in these parts, but there is £100 due to Lucas Stidman which must be paid soon. There is also £140 due to Jehu Curtis but he does not want the money so that he has the interest. So I would have the other debts paid first."

A public vendue was held at the dwelling of the late Joshua Way on the 12th and 13th of November, 1751. "A quantity of European and West India goods" and household items were sold at the time. Property left to his heirs included a house known as the Salt Box with meadows attached, his dwelling house and an adjoining lot, a shop, and a third lot, as well as several unidentified lots. Legacies to his wife and children exceeded £1400. Ferris as the executor most familiar with commercial affairs found it necessary to journey frequently "into Maryland, the Jerseys, all parts of New Castle, Chester, and Lancaster Counties" as well as Philadelphia in the course of settling the estate. Within a few weeks of assuming the executorships, he gave up his own business and for five years devoted his time to winding up the affairs of his friend.

Joshua Way and Thomas West were not the only Marple names associated with colonial Wilmington. Wilmington offered an alternative to Philadelphia for the farmer who would turn merchant. Wilmington lots represented a good investment as well as a property to be used for the advancement of a son or daughter. As a port Wilmington was of considerable importance to the millers, manufacturers, and merchants of western Chester County. In 1740 the first ship, the brig "The Wilmington," sailed from the new port loaded with flour, ship-bread, white and black oak staves, beef in barrels, butter and other provisions bound for Jamaica.

The following persons identified with colonial Marple were at some time in their lives owners of Wilmington lots:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| James Bartram | George Ogdon |
| William Fell | Seth Pancoast |
| Isaac Howell | Evan Pennell |
| Hugh Lownes | Joseph Powell |
| Joseph Maris | Samuel Powell |
| Samuel Maris | Susanna Powell |
| Jonathan Morris, St. | Joseph Rhoads |

Benjamin Weatherby

The list is not exhaustive. A search of the New Castle Deed Books and land records would undoubtedly add names to the above. The horizons and the economic interests of many Marple yeomen extended well beyond those seen from behind their plows.

At an even earlier period James Stanfield, only son of Francis Stanfield of Marple, took a place among the merchants of Philadelphia. We can assume that Stanfield was already of age in 1683 when he left England with his parents, since he served with Jonathan Hayes in 1684 as the first collector of "Publick aide" (taxes) for Marple. Sometime not long after this he moved to Philadelphia. There in 1690 under the care of the Philadelphia Meeting, he married Mary Hutchinson, daughter of George of Burlington.

In the 1690s Stanfield described himself as a "conveyance merchant of Philadelphia." He was owner of the brigantine Betsy, a square-rigged, two-masted, ocean-going vessel. A list of his investments in land through

the 1690s gives a sense of the rate at which his wealth was accumulating, how he was going about the establishment of his fortune, and what investments he was making. In 1693 he purchased a lot on the Delaware between High and Mulberry Streets "with houses and wharffs thereon built or to be built." In 1697 he purchased a front lot on Delaware Street for 40 pounds. The next year he purchased a lot on 3rd Street for £105 and a bank (river bank) lot for £53. He invested in a tract of 2100 acres in Broad-Kill and Prune-Hook, Sussex County, Delaware.

In addition Stanfield purchased Ebenezer Langford's 500 acre tract in Marple in 1694. On May 8, 1696 he sold 100 acres to Thomas Hope, husband of his sister Elizabeth. On September 8 of the same year he sold 100 acres to Henry Hamms (Haines) for £20 and 300 acres to Thomas Massey, formerly servant to the Stanfields for £61. In about thirteen years the market value of farm land in Marple had risen from £2 per 100 acres to £20 per 100 acres.

Given a longer life, James Stanfield might have become a significant merchant. He combined in his person attributes which made for success in Philadelphia in that period and today: a solid business sense, a steady application to work, a Quaker background, and moderate wealth. He was young and energetic. However, Stanfield died in September 1699 without issue, quite possibly of the yellow fever which reached epidemic proportions in that year. His son Francis had died in 1695; his wife and daughter Mary died August 1698, perhaps also due to the fevers prevalent in the port city in the late summers.

The long account of the administration of his estate, filed by Francis Chads, his executor, speaks to Stanfield's involvement in the commercial world at the turn of that century as it details the settlement: the disposal of the three slaves, the collection of rents, the payment of rent on the cellar of Mary Kerle, the collection of debts and payment of bonds, the selling of lands and of the "Betsy" (£151) as well as the numerous small items such as the cost of keeping the horses in town and having them shod (£2-15-0). Receipts balanced payments at almost £2000, about twice the sum found in the accounts of the wealthiest rural colonials engaged in comparable business. As a Marple farmer he might have left an estate of £600 to £800 pounds at most.

James Stanfield's death in 1699 left his sisters the sole heirs to their father's lands (600 acres) in Marple and the residual heirs of James. The subsequent decisions regarding their Marple landholding made by the heirs provides an interesting example of how families actually dealt with such issues and suggests some of the practical problems involved in inheritance and the disposal of lands.

The family acting as a group decided to sell. At first glance the decision is surprising. The surprise is not that they were selling the "family farm." This was frequently done. But two of the husbands should have been interested in buying out the other four. Edward Bennett (husband of Sarah), Francis Chads (husband of Grace), Isaac Few (husband of Hannah), and Richard Woodward (husband of Deborah) were already

well-established elsewhere within the county. But William Huntley (husband of Mary) held a 25 acre lot in Marple, confirmed to him by Francis Stanfield's will. Thomas Hope (husband of Elizabeth) had purchased 100 acres (Langford tract) from James Stanfield. Possibly they saw an advantage in selling dear (improved land) and buying cheap (unimproved or less improved land). The most likely explanation is that they lacked the necessary combination of cash and credit to buy out the others at the market price and their already established brothers-in-law wanted or needed their share of the capital for further investments. This possibility gains support from the fact that in 1700 John Rhoads paid £115 for the 100 acre tract James Stanfield sold to Henry Hames for £20 in 1696, and that John Howell's 300 acres were valued at £340 in 1703. Francis Stanfield's 375 acres was probably worth about a pound an acre or £575 to £600 by 1704 when they were placed on the market.

On December 10, 1699 William Huntley sold his 25 acres lot to Peter Worrall of Marple for £15. This lot was located on the Sproul Road and bounded by Paxon-Hollow Road, Jamestown Road, and Williamsburg Road. The deed makes no mention of a house on the lot at that time. On August 31, 1703 Thomas Hope sold his 100 acre plantation to Bartholomew Coppock who had earlier purchased the adjoining tract of 338 acres from John Nixon. On February 4, 1703/4 the Stanfield tract was sold: 300 acres to Thomas Pearson of Marple and 275 acres to Joseph Worrall of Kent County, Delaware. The land in question extended from the Great Road or Sproul Road west to the Crum Creek and was bounded



"Black Mansion"—Northwest corner Hedgerow Dr. and MacLarie Lane (1690 Stanfield House?)

on the north and south by two parallel lines, beginning at Crum Creek Road and at another Cedar Grove Road. Most of Pearsons's purchase was to the north of Paxon-Hollow Road. Francis Stanfield's home, shown on Charles Ashcom's 1683 map of settlement as located along the Great Road of Marple, was probably on the tract purchased by Pearson. This is supported by the fact that the deed from the Stanfield heirs to Pearson mentions a house. There is speculation as to the possibility that the house was on the site of the Black Mansion (known also as the Vanleer Mansion) or possibly was incorporated into that house.

The deed, dated January 22, 1745, from Peter Worrall the elder to Peter Worrall the younger, is a deed for the Stanfield property which Huntley sold to Peter Worrall in 1699.

Well-to-do rural landowners looked around for ways to invest their capital which would enable them to earn more than the 6 percent legal interest rate allowed in Pennsylvania during most of the colonial period. Evan Lewis of Newtown and Richard Maris of Springfield were two such individuals. They were not only substantial landowners in their own right, but their wives, Mary and Elizabeth, daughters of Jonathan Hayes, late of Marple, had each inherited over 600 acres in Marple in about 1714 after the deaths of their father and only brother Jonathan Hayes, Jr.

Commerce and shipping seemed to offer attractive opportunities for investment. On April 24, 1716 Lewis and Maris purchased two lots and a house on the Delaware River in Philadelphia from Joseph Growdon for £130. With the ownership of the lots the two men acquired the rights granted to Benjamin Chambers by Penn in 1694. Namely: "the right to contract with and agree with and to receive reasonable satisfaction from all persons making use of the wharfs and keys built upon the lots for shipping or landing goods and merchandizes and by ships, boats, or vessels coming to lying by and making use of the same." They were responsible for maintaining a cart road thirty feet wide along the bank, open to the public by day and night. Steps up and down from the house were to be built in a manner which would not block the cartway.

On August 17, 1720 the partners sold the lots to Thomas Griffith of Philadelphia, merchant, for £170, a profit of £40 over the four year period or about 5 percent per year compounded annually. In addition, the partners received the rents and charges on the wharfs, though they undoubtedly paid someone to represent their interest since neither moved to the city. More important than their profits from our perspective is the fact that they invested in such ventures. Records are not available, but we can assume that the site was profitable since the value of the property increased over time.

Chapter 10

**DANIEL WILLIAMSON:
SERVANT & LANDOWNER**

Daniel Williamson

For Daniel Williamson, one of the original settlers of Marple Township, America was indeed the land of opportunity. The early records state that Daniel Williamson "came servant to Robert Taylor." To refer to Williamson as a servant is technically correct but, perhaps, misleading. Born in Skelton, Cheshire, September 8, 1665, of Quaker parents, Daniel was no stranger to his masters. He was not hired out of necessity or purchased at an auction as were many indentured servants, but, the son of a neighbor and a kinsman of the group of Marple settlers from Cheshire. Mary Howell, wife of John, was his sister; Ann Hayes, wife of Jonathan, was a Williamson, a cousin to Daniel; Mary, sister of Jonathan Hayes, was the wife of Robert Taylor of Little Leigh to whom he was bound. The original indenture between Williamson and Taylor is lost; a general statement, however, can be recovered from a 1708 deed:

Whereas the sd Robert Taylor by a Certain Contract made in the Kingdom of England between himself and the sd Daniel Williamson in or about the year of our Lord 1682 in Consideration among other things of the service to be done and performed unto the sd Robert by the said Daniel in Pensilvania afsd did Covenant and agree to and with ye sd Daniel Williamson that he the sd Robert should Grant him and his heirs forever fifty Acres of free Land being part of his [Robert Taylor's] original purchase of 1000 acres purchased from William Penn proprietary of the sd province. . . .

In addition to the 50 acres just mentioned, Daniel received his passage and keep for the period of servitude, which, judging from the fact that he married in 1685, was for about three years. In return, Daniel agreed to accompany the Taylors to the colony in 1682 and to assist them in all things necessary to settlement, such as clearing land, building a home and barn, planting so many acres.

Reducing the contract to cash terms, Robert Taylor's outlay and Daniel Williamson's return, on three years indentured service appears as follows:

The Charge of Transporting a Servant to the Province of Pennsylvania and For Maintaining him for three Years:

| | Pounds | Shill- ings | Pence |
|--|--------|----------------|-------|
| <i>For passage</i> | 05 | 00 | 00 |
| <i>For Clothes: 6 Shirts, 2 Waistcoats, a Summer and a Winter Shute, 1 Hat, 2 pair of Shoes, Stokins, Drawyers</i> | 06 | 0 | 00 |
| <i>For ship Doctor</i> | 00 | 02 | 06 |
| <i>For Brandy and Sugar for the Voyage</i> | 00 | 04 | 00 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| For Lodging for 2 months till a House be built | 00 | 04 | 00 |
| For Provisions for the three Years at £ 3—07—05 per Year: 8 bushels Indian Corn at 2 s per Bushel, 120 pounds Beef and Pork at 2 d. per pound, 1 gall. of Spirits and 2/5 Barrel of Molasses for Beer, per year | 10 | 02 | 03 |
| | 21 | 12 | 09 |
| For Things forgot | 01 | 03 | 03 |
| | 23 | 00 | 00 |

(Calculated from "Information and Directions to Such Persons as are Inclined to America," PA. Magazine of History & Biography, IV, 329-342.)

"And Whereas by virtue of certain Concessions made by the Proprietary for the Encouragement of such p'sons as should transport themselves Servants over into the sd province," Daniel was also entitled to 50 acres of headland under the yearly rent of one half-penny sterling for every acre thereof. Typically, a servant's land was not surveyed until after the expiration of his time of servitude. An exception was made in this case. By agreement with John Howell and with the consent of Robert Taylor, Daniel's 100 acres were laid out with Howell's 300 acres in a tract of 400 acres, by warrant of October 20, on October 22, 1683. A full rent was charged during the period of his indenture on the 50 acres intended as headland. The fifty acres from Taylor to Williamson had been purchased and were subject only to a yearly quitrent at the rate of one shilling per 100 acres.

On September 7, 1685, Daniel Williamson and Mary Smith, sister both of Margery, the wife of Thomas Pearson, and of Eleanor, wife of Bartholomew Coppock, Sr. of Springfield Township, appeared before a meeting of Friends to declare their intention of marriage. Robert Taylor and Thomas Pearson were appointed to speak with Daniel; Grace Stanfield and Eleanor Coppock, with Mary. On October 5, 1685, found to be clear of entanglements and of a proper mind, the couple were left free to proceed with their marriage. Daniel, aged twenty years, and Mary, twenty-five, settled in Marple on Daniel's 100 acres. On November 24, 1692, about two months after his fourth child was born, Daniel Williamson purchased 500 acres in Newtown Township in two parcels for fifty pounds: 450 acres of open farm land and 50 acres in the village. The Williamson's purchase seems to have been financed by savings, by the sale of the Marple tract of 100 acres to Josiah Taylor, son of Robert Taylor, about 1694, and by a mortgage, held by the former owner, Andrew Robeson of Philadelphia, merchant. The Williamson family probably removed to Newtown Township soon after acquiring the tract, for their name does not appear on the 1693 Tax List for Marple. Daniel added 25 acres village land on 1-14-1698/9, another 17½ acres, 12-23-1702/3, and three tracts, totaling 207½ acres in 1707 for 132

pounds. In 1712 he held a total of 879 acres in Newtown Township, 214 acres of village land and 665 acres beyond. The average land holding in Marple at this time was about 300 acres.

In 1712 Daniel Williamson was forty seven years of age; his wife Mary, fifty two. The couple had been married for twenty seven years and had eight children. The eldest son and daughter had both married without the consent of the Meeting or of their parents: Robert, by 1708, to his first cousin, Hannah Coppock, and Mary, in 1711, to Mirick Davies, an Episcopalian. Daniel, Jr. and John were of age, still unmarried and living at home. Recognizing that his sons needed land "for their better advancement," Daniel requested a survey of his land for the purpose of partition. This was completed in February 1711/2.

On September 29, 1713, for natural love and 75 pounds, current money of Pennsylvania, Daniel and Mary Williamson conveyed 315 acres on the Crum Creek to their son John, age twenty-three and on December 10, 1718, an additional 5 acres, adjoining the first. Sons Daniel and Thomas also received tracts during this period but both sold them within a few years and left Newtown, Thomas for Edgmont and Daniel, Jr. for Springfield and, later, Marple. Robert, the eldest son, and Joseph, the youngest, may or may not have received equal benefits from their parents. Robert's debts to his father were forgiven by his will as were Daniel's. Joseph was taxed as a freeman, living at his father's house on the 350 acre plantation Daniel retained in 1720/21; the Minutes of the Goshen Monthly Meeting, 1722, noted that Joseph had gone away without paying his debts. Daniel left him a mere five shillings in his will.

From his marriage in 1685 to the division of his land in 1712, Daniel Williamson's life had been a full one. He served his turn in the township offices and in the County Court: Constable of Marple, 1691; Grand Jury, 1705; Supervisor of Highways, Newtown, 1706. In 1704/5 he was chosen as one of the six Chester County Tax Assessors. In 1708 and again in 1709, he was elected representative from Chester County to the Provincial Assembly, one of eight. Over these same years, he gradually assumed stature within the Quaker community. With increasing frequency he represented the Goshen (Newtown) Meeting at the Chester Monthly Meeting and the Chester Monthly Meeting at the Quarterly Meeting in Philadelphia. Given the size of his plantation (879 acres) and the level of his participation in church and civil affairs, it is safe to assume that, in addition to himself and his sons, a number of renters and laborers were involved in the working of his lands. This is confirmed by one small item only, date 1-24-1715/6. A worker, probably a seasonal helper, acknowledged to the Chester Monthly Meeting that "at house of old Daniel Williamson in Harvest time last past (he) did curse and swear" for which he is truly sorry.

In later years, Daniel Williamson's skill as a mediator and as a man of affairs was frequently required. The problems varied. In 1717 and 1718, for example, he and several others treated repeatedly with Thomas Fell who found himself unable to pay his debts. On their advice, Fell even-

tually sold his plantation in Uwchlan, paid off his creditors and moved to Springfield where, with the help of these same Friends, he became a successful farmer. In 1721, when Jacob Edge's widow, Sarah, declared her intention of marriage to Caleb Cowpland, Williamson and others went over the records of her deceased husband's estate and secured the portions of the children of that marriage; Sarah was then left free to proceed with her second marriage. Named Overseer of the meeting at Newtown on December-30-1717, a position he held until October-31-1720, Williamson, with his fellow overseer, was responsible for the general well-being of his meeting. It is likely that, on being re-elected to the Assembly in the fall of 1720, he asked to be relieved of this position.

Daniel Williamson was returned to the Assembly in 1720, 1721 and 1722. These were years of depression coupled with a severe monetary crisis. The market for wheat declined; the demand for imports continued to increase; the flow of silver from the Province accelerated. By 1722 the entire colony was in danger of being reduced to a barter economy. The Chester County farmers, among whom Daniel was numbered, unable to get cash, petitioned the Assembly: to reduce interest rates from eight to six percent, to lessen the tolls millers charged for boulding and packing flour, and all importers of "Servants and Goods to enjoin to take Country Produce for Pay, and to make hemp current Pay at Forty-five shillings per hundred. . . ."

On October 15, 1722, Governor Keith addressed the newly elected Assembly: "I doubt not but you are all sensible how much the present circumstances require the speedy and serious attention of an Assembly." The issue facing Williamson and the other Assembly Members was not whether an acute shortage of a currency of cash was causing a decay of trade and credit in Pennsylvania but how to remedy the matter: whether to force merchants to accept country produce at market prices as ready money on all occasions and to raise the value of gold, English money and other silver or to print a paper currency. After weeks of debate, the group favoring the printing of money prevailed, and the Assembly settled down to devising a system whereby the state would be able to maintain the value of the printed currency on a level close to that of English coin. The colonists had to find a means of securing the new money or the bills would fall quickly and become worthless; "Credit has its own Laws as unalterable in themselves, as those of Motion or Gravity are in Nature." The conservative legislators—such as Williamson—warned each other that the terms under which public money was to be lent must be even more carefully considered than each of them would consider the terms of a private loan; a failure in Public Credit "affects the Fortunes of every individual in his Money, the Medium of his Commerce and Dealing."

On March 2 1722/3, "An Act for the Emitting and Making Current Fifteen Thousand Pounds in Bills of Credit" was passed by an Assembly that agreed that "through the Extreame Scarcity of Money, the Trade of this Province is greatly obstructed, and the Payment of the Publick Debts of this Government render'd exceeding difficult, and likely so to

continue, unless some Medium in Commerce be by Law made Current instead of Money." Eleven thousand pounds of these bills were to be let out at five percent for the term of eight years or less, in sums not exceeding one hundred pounds and not less than twelve pounds ten shillings and to be secured by mortgages in at least double the value of lands and ground-rents and at least three times the value of houses, all within the province. With the printing of the bills of credit, Pennsylvania entered a period of prosperity. So well had Williamson and the other Assembly Members secured their paper money under the General Loan Office that this and later printings did maintain a value equal to the purpose for which it was issued. One wonders whether Daniel Williamson's sale of his Newtown plantation in March 1723 was related to the currency crisis he had spent the winter helping to solve?

On March 16, 1723, Daniel Williamson sold 350 acres, including his home, to James Hunter, late of Ireland, for 340 pounds and removed to the adjoining township of Edgmont. There he acquired, on June 3, 1724, a farm of 100 acres for which he paid twenty pounds cash and assumed a 50 pound mortgage given by the General Loan Office, at six percent interest. In 1727/8 while serving his sixth term as representative to the Assembly, Daniel Williamson, aged sixty-two, died.

By will dated March 7, 1725/6, probated March 8, 1727/8, Daniel Williamson devised the Edgmont farm valued at 62 pounds in the inventory, to his wife Mary for life and then to his son Thomas, with the provision that he pay five pounds each to daughters, Margaret, wife of Joshua Thomas, and Abigail, wife of John Yarnall. Daniel forgave his sons Robert and Daniel all debts due him and ordered his Executors to pay five pounds to his daughter Mary, wife of Mirick Davies, and an additional five pounds to Margaret Thomson. Joseph, his youngest son, received only five shillings. His nephew, Stephen Martin, son of Walter, deceased, a person *non sane memoria* (retarded), was left in the care of Daniel's wife for life and then, at her discretion, either to John or Thomas Williamson. Williamson's estate, real and personal, was valued on March 11, 1727/8 at £282-19-03-2, including £62 for the farm and £106-17-05 in Bonds, Bills, Notes and Book debts.

When Daniel moved from Newtown to Edgmont The Certificate of Removal, prepared by the newly formed Goshen Monthly Meeting, dated, June-7-1723, sent to Chester Monthly Meeting provides a suitable epitaph.

... having been a man of peace and Quietness among his friends and neighbors; and also free and Liberal on Truth's account, and we are Loath to part with him but that we hope the altering of his Circumstances may be for his more comfortable satisfaction for the future; so we Recommend him unto you, thinking it not needfull to Enlarge because already known to you, ...

Chapter 11

**WILLARD:
A CONCERN OF FAMILY**

Willard: A Concern of Family

Before leaving England, George Willard, late of Worth, now of East Grinstead, County of Sussex, yeoman, purchased 1250 acres by Indenture of Lease and Release, dated July 24 and 25, 1682, for the sum of twenty-five pounds. It is probable that Willard sailed for PA. in August or early September 1682.

On February 3, 1682/3, a warrant was issued for the survey of 300 acres for George Willard as part of his purchase of 1250. This tract was laid out in Marple, October 24, 1683, and a patent, granted by William Penn, Jan. 22-1684, confirmed George Willard's title. Joseph Willard seems to have acted as his brother's agent for his name appeared in the records of the surveyors in several instances. Also, on a 1683 draft of part of Chester County, prepared by the surveyor, Charles Ashcom, the 300 acres were identified as Joseph Willard's; a single home appeared at the western end of the tract, not far from Crum Creek. It seems almost certain that Joseph, his wife Elizabeth, daughter Susanna, and, perhaps, a son George took up residence with George Willard, and that Joseph managed the plantation. This assumption is consistent with the subsequent history of the Marple tract.

As a First Purchaser, George Willard was entitled to land in Philadelphia and environs proportionate to his purchase, in his case, to 25 acres. By warrants, dated July 17-1683, 20 acres of land in the City Liberties and a lot on High Street (the market street and now Market Street), between the seventh and eighth street from the Delaware River were surveyed. By a third warrant, Nov. 8-1683, a second city lot, this one on Front Street, between Chestnut and High Street, extending back to Second Street, was surveyed and return made, Sept. 18-1684. The latter was a choice lot, centrally located, close to the markets and fronting on the Delaware; about one third of the block had been reserved for Penn himself. A map, "Philadelphia as William Penn Knew It: 1684" prepared in 1932 by Albert Cook Myers, shows a building on the lot marked George Willard. Willard promptly applied for and received patents from Penn confirming his titles to his city land and then, as promptly, sold them: the Liberty land, to John Jones, on Aug. 4-1685, for fifteen pounds; the Front Street lot to Wm Lee, on Sept. 7-1685, for thirteen pounds fifteen shillings; the High Street lot to Joshua Carpenter, on Nov. 17-1687, for five pounds. As already noted, George had paid only twenty-five pounds in England in 1682 for all 1250 acres. He sold his Philadelphia lands for thirty-three pounds fifteen shillings. After paying for surveys, and patents, he cleared his original investment in land.

On Sept. 24-1684, in right of his 1250 acres purchased, George Willard requested the survey of 400 acres in Bucks County. This is proba-

bly the tract sold to Phineas Pemberton, May 17-1697. On the 27th of 11th month, 1684, Willard asked that the balance of his 1250 acres, 530 acres, be surveyed in Chester County. A warrant was issued. However, no return of survey was filed. The 220 acre tract on the boundary between Middletown and Edgmont Townships, known as "Cumberland," sold by Willard to Roger Jackson, March 6-1686/7 for twenty-two pounds may have been acquired in this way. A 100 acre tract in Birmingham was sold by Willard to Edmund Butcher, June 9-1696, for four pounds ten shillings which is not yet accounted for. From later petitions it is clear, however, that not all of the remaining 530 acres were surveyed in 1684 or 1685.

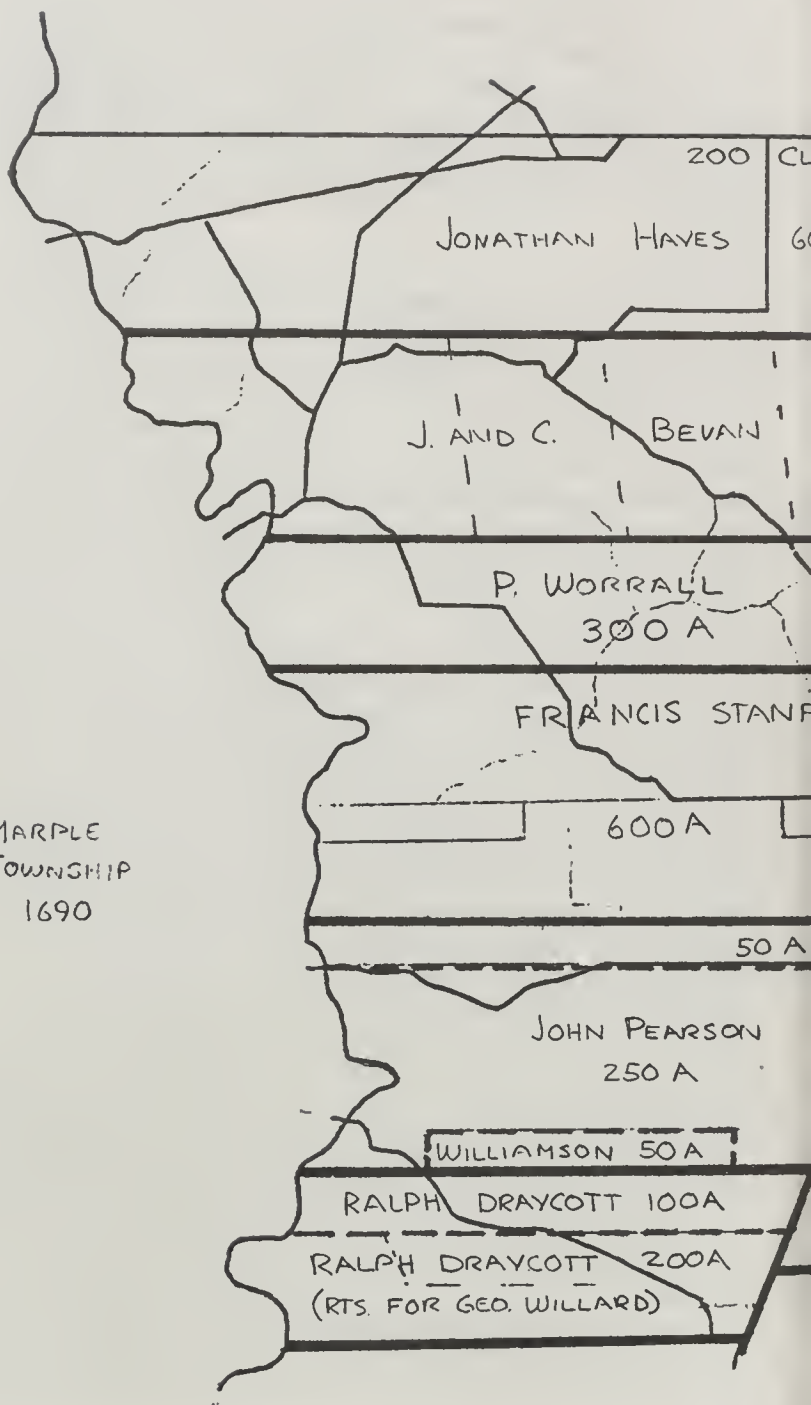
During the period from 1683 to 1697, George Willard, a bachelor, maintained a residence in Marple. His brother Joseph died within a few years of settlement and George assumed responsibility for the widow and daughter Susanna. Problems followed. In December 1688, Susanna was summoned to the County Court at Chester and "found with child and having no husband." She confessed that one John Bradshaw was the father of the child and that she had been seduced under a promise of marriage; she begged the mercy of the Court. The child was born dead. Grace Stanfield, the midwife and Susanna's neighbors, Margaret Coppock, Eleanor Coppock and Margery Pearson all testified that "the child had received no Harm." The matter seems to have been dropped; probably a fine was paid by George.

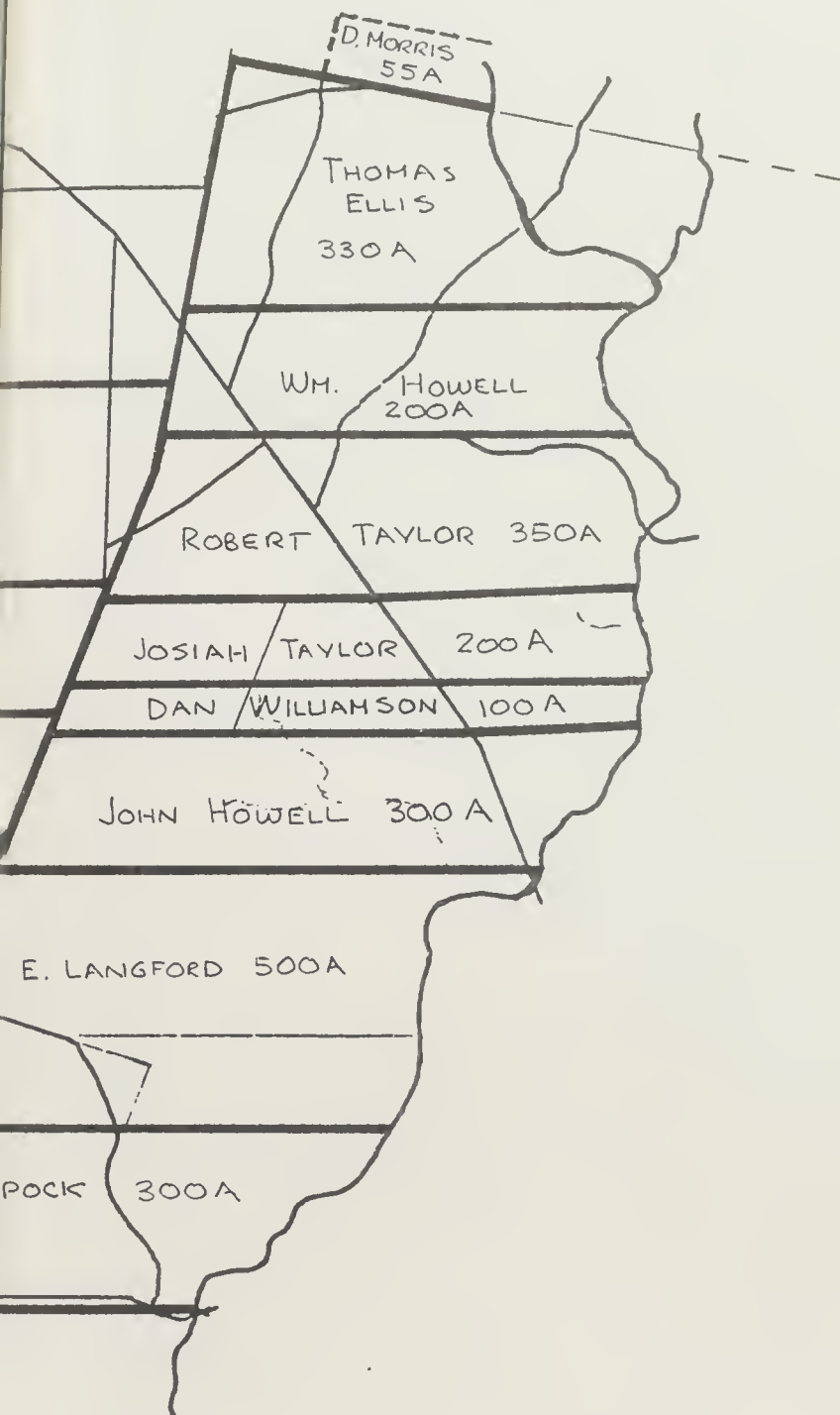
Later, in 1689, Elizabeth, Joseph's widow, announced her intention of marrying Ralph Draycott who had come to Pennsylvania in 1683 on the "Endeavor" as a servant to Henry Maddock of Loom Hall, Cheshire. He had served his indenture, probably in Springfield Township on the Maddock plantation, and was now a freeman. On December 2, 1689, by Deed of Gift George Willard, in consideration of the coming marriage, conveyed to Elizabeth Willard and Ralph Draycott a 100 acre tract, extending from the Crum Creek to the Great Marple Street, bounded on the north by the Pearson tract and on the south by the remaining 200 acres of his 300 acres. The couple were married and the deed acknowledged in Open Court, March 5, 1689/90.

In 1690, Susanna again was called into court, this time for giving birth to a boy fathered by Ralph Draycott, her step-father. There was no mercy this time. Ralph was sentenced to one year imprisonment and fined one half of his estate. In addition he was ordered to bear the costs of raising the child and to pay all court charges for both parties. On June 4-1690, Thomas Varnam (Vernon), Joshua Hastings and Robert Borrows were appointed by the Court to appraise his estate and to report at the next session. Susanna was to forfeit one half of her estate or, if she had none, to be imprisoned for one year and kept at hard labor for the use of the public.

Acting in the interest of his family, George Willard, on November 5, 1690, conveyed, by Deed of Enfeoffment, the remainder of his Marple tract to Ralph Draycott. The deed was subject to the following terms:

MARPLE
TOWNSHIP
1690





Ralph was to pay a yearly rent of ten pounds in two semi-annual payments for the life of George "in lawful money of Pennsylvania or value thereof in good merchantable winter wheat at money price to be laid in and delivered at Chester or Schoolkill Mills," as George preferred. George reserved one room in the main house on the premises for life, with free ingress and egress. The deed further noted that George had delivered a cow of six years and a horse of eight to Ralph for a term of nine years and that, in return, at the end of that period, Ralph was to give George another cow and horse as near as may be in value to the cow and horse he had received. On the same date, Ralph conveyed to George, by Deed of Mortgage, the 100 acre tract received as dowry for Elizabeth as security for the payment of the ten pounds rent on the other 200 acres.

Within a few days of signing these deeds for the Marple land George requested the second tract in Bucks County of 200 acres in right of his purchase. About a year later he was described in the Commissioners Minutes of Chester County as a Merchant. What was he doing during this period? A number of well-traveled roads intersect at the south east corner of the Willard tract in Marple, an ideal site for a store; however, without more information we can only speculate. In the 1693 Provincial levy of one penny per pound on estates, Ralph Draycott was assessed three shillings; George, two shillings six. Of the twelve households listed for Marple, eleven paid between three shillings six and two shillings six.

George Willard continued his association with Ralph Draycott. In June 1695, Charles Brooks conveyed 1500 acres in Willistown Township to Draycott who, on October 11, sold the entire tract to George Willard for an undiscovered sum. Willard divided the tract into three parcels and offered them for sale at fifty pounds each, that is, at two shillings per acre. On June 8-1697, Peter Thomas and Francis Yarnell each purchased 500 acres; on Oct. 8-1699, Thomas Massey of Marple, the remaining 500. In the 1697 deeds Willard agreed to procure a firm and legal patent for the 500 acre tracts from the Proprietor or the Commissioners of Property within one year of the sale.

On June 11-1695/6 Willard purchased 100 acres in Bucks County from Prudence Betridge. On Aug. 29, 1697, Ralph Draycott of Marple, yeoman, and Elizabeth his wife and George Willard of Marple, yeoman, sold the Marple plantation to Thomas Pearson of Marple for one hundred fifty-seven pounds ten shillings. The two families removed to Bucks County where on Feb. 17-1698/9 George Willard purchased an additional 100 acres from John Shaw, once of Marple, now of Bucks County.

George Willard of Warminster, Bucks County, yeoman, by will dated Jan. 24-1705/6 and probated March 14, 1705/6, left twenty pounds to Susannah Shaw and ten to her sister Elizabeth, children of John Shaw. Philip Draycott, son of Ralph, was to receive the thirty pounds his father owed Willard. His land was devised to his nephew George Willard and to his children, but if George should die without issue, the land was to be divided between the four sons of John Shaw. The inventory suggests that George Willard was living alone in a small cabin and farming. The fur-

nishings included only a bed and bedding, valued at five pounds in a period when a better bed would be listed at about ten pounds, a coffer, chest and cooking utensils, valued at about ten pounds; the farm implements were appraised at 4-17-0 and the stock, at 31-10-0. Including the debts due the estate, 35-11-6, the total value of his personal estate was about 94 pounds.

Ralph Draycott of Bucks County, yeoman, died about five years after his friend, George Willard. The ties between the two families had held. George Willard, the nephew, signed Ralph's will as witness, August 26, 1710, and affirmed his signature on January 3, 1711/12. Elizabeth Randal, daughter of Nicholas, named in George Willard's will, was to receive a cow and a calf when she came of age. The rest of his goods and chattels, lands and tenements, he gave to his son Philip for his use and "*for to maintaine my wife Handsome and descent as she ought for to be during her life*" and to pay all debts against the estate.

Chapter 12

**THE REVOLUTION &
MARPLE**

"Whereas great damages of the most wanton nature have been committed by the armies of the King of Great Britain. . . . And whereas, an accurate account and estimate of such damages, more especially the waste and destruction of property may be useful to the people of the United States of America in forming a future treaty of peace and in the meantime may serve to exhibit in a true light to the nations of Europe the conduct of said king, his ministers, officers, and adherents. . . ." With this statement of purpose the Pennsylvania Assembly introduced in September 1782 an act ordering the inhabitants who had suffered damages, waste, spoil, or destruction from the invading army to draw up an account of these losses, that the same might be entered into a permanent record.

The resulting lists, known as "The British Depravations," provide a wealth of data from which to study colonial society in 1777. But they also speak as lists compiled by individuals who stood with their families, at bayonet point, and watched the wanton and vindictive destruction and looting of their homes by marauding British soldiers. The hatred and fear arising from such experiences and the prospect of them occurring or re-occurring contributed to the desire to punish not only the Loyalist but anyone who did not fully participate in the struggle against the King. Emotions were still raw in the summer of 1783 when the Americans awaited the signing of the Peace of Paris, marking the official end of the war. Much of the bitterness arose out of so-called "minor incidents" and "the daily inconveniences of war."

The earliest of the Marple records of British raids is of a raid of the home of Joseph Burns on the 17th of September, 1777, after the battle of Brandywine and before the British occupation of Philadelphia on September 26th—a period of confusion and uncertainty. On September 11, 1777, George Washington, in an effort to halt the march of the British army on Philadelphia, met the advancing Howe on the east bank of the Brandywine Creek. The ensuing battle was a British victory. The hard-pressed American forces retreated across Chester County toward Philadelphia. The British followed. On September 15th Washington paused at the Buck Tavern in Haverford long enough to write a letter to Congress urging them to send more blankets; then dodging the British, he moved on. The King's men roamed Chester County. On September 21 they surprised and massacred the American troops encamped at Paoli under General Anthony Wayne. In the interim between Brandywine and Paoli Joseph Burns of Marple was forced to stand by and watch a band of British soldiers loot his home.

In 1777 Joseph Burns, then about thirty-three years of age, lived

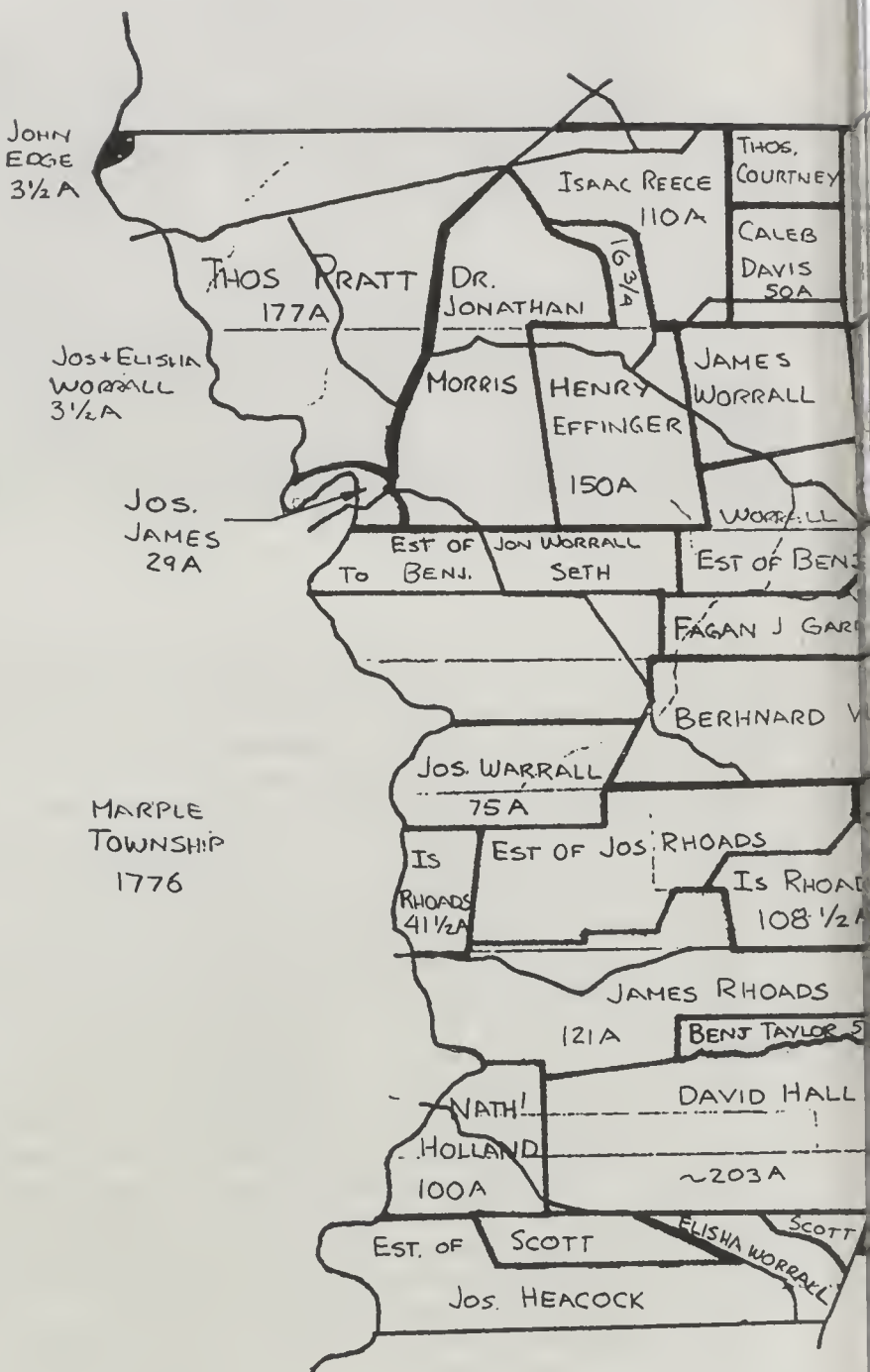


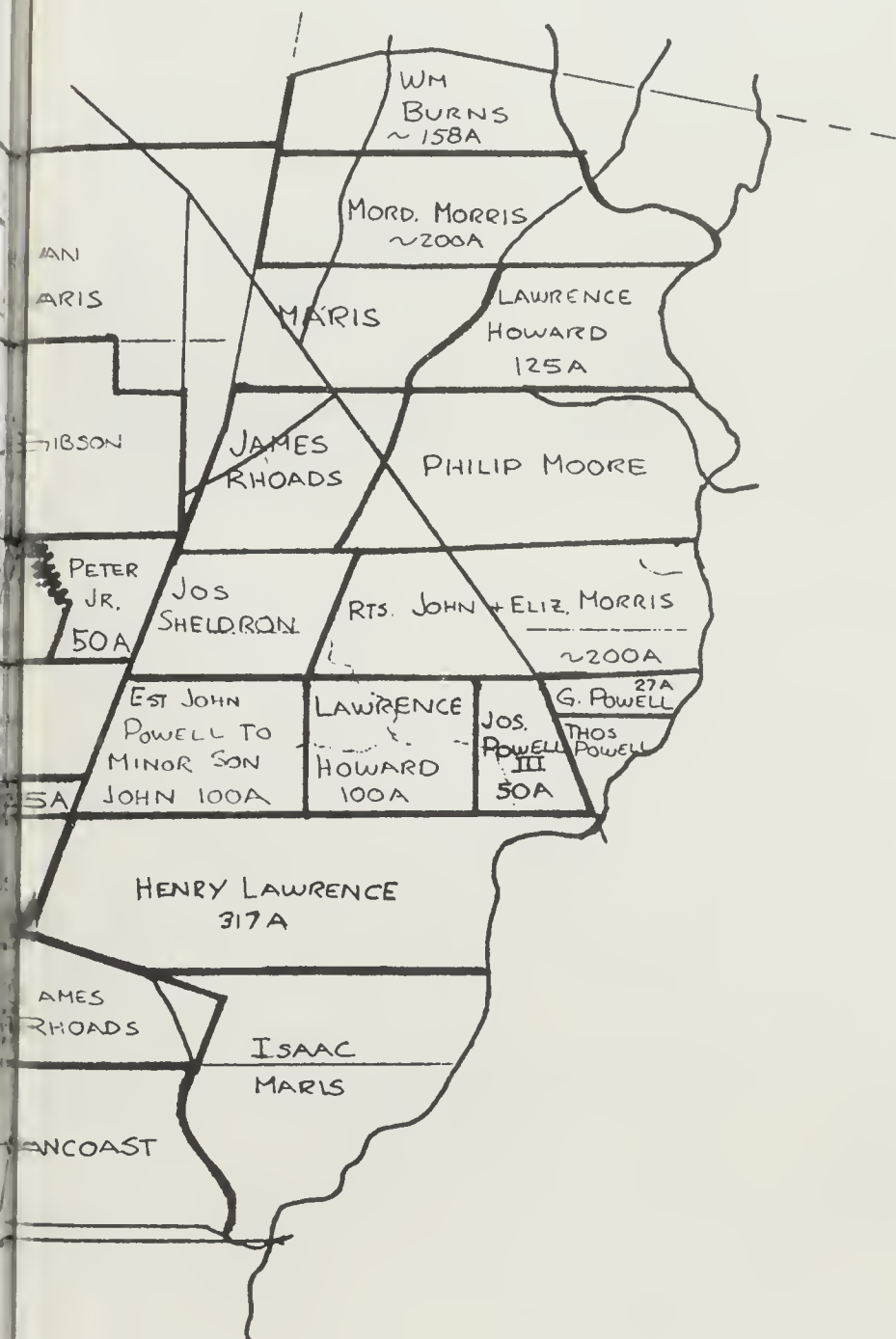
Burns property ca. 1760 southside Darby Creek and The Great Road of Marple (Sproul Rd. in 1985).

with his family on a 10 acre tract in Marple that he leased from his father William and on which he had built a house and sawmill. The lease described him as Joseph Burns, carpenter. In 1795 when he sold this tract (inherited in 1791 from his father), he described himself as Joseph Burns of New Castle, Esquire, late of Marple, carpenter.

That the British party seized such items as 375 pounds of beef salted up and 275 pounds of salted pork, salt on hand, bacon, butter, 25 pounds of salted shad, ale, spirits and wine, pots and pans, blankets and bedding and his carpenter tools was to be expected given that the army was living off the countryside as they moved toward Philadelphia. Foraging turned to looting, however, when the soldiers seized Burns' sea fishing tackle and some of his goldsmithing tools. The list of items taken, prepared by Burns, covers three large pages. It is generally straightforward and unemotional, but his sense of loss can be detected in the entry which breaks the pattern: "A nice Fowling piece, Sealskin Shott Bagg, powder Horn, etc. Taken by the party that took me prisoner in the month of September soon after the Battle of Brandywine: £3-10-00." The account ends with a list of the books carried off: Salmon's Geographica Grammer, Godfrey's poems, N. Evans' Poems, Brown's Sunday Thoughts, Dryden's Novels, Pope's Essay on Man, and poems on different subjects. It is an unusual list to find in the home of a rural carpenter and makes credible his later use of the term "Esquire."

The ransacking ended. The British, laden with the household goods and provisions laid up against the coming winter, moved on. The soldiers, jubilant and excited, tore open the pillows and tossed the feathers into







Philip Moore ca. 1776—Coopertown Road (1985 Marple Road) and Darby Creek—northwest corner.

the air. In listing his losses, Burns duly took into account the fact that some of the feathers were recovered and valued the lost pillows accordingly.

The Burns family was visited again on November 16, but the encounter was less traumatic. "Two creatures," belonging to William Burns, were driven-off by the Light Horse, believed to be commanded by Colonel Harcourt. On the same day Daniel Cameron was visited—probably Cameron, tenant of the Moore family. If so, the British were probably making a loop through the northeastern corner of Marple along the road to Haverford (today's Marple Road) and the Radnor-Chester Road (the Sproul Road north into Radnor). From Cameron the soldiers seized 350 pounds of beef, 300 pounds of pork, some bedding, linen, flour, "a parcel of fowl," a silver stock buckle, and a new bonnet, valued at fifteen shillings.

As the winter advanced the British foraging increased. On December 10, 11, and 12 they again roamed the northeastern corner of the township and seized needed and unneeded goods and provisions from the farms along the route. On the 10th they were at Modesai Morris's farm on the Radnor-Chester Road just south of the lands of the Burns family. The visit cannot be passed over as an effort to meet the needs of the army. It was a blatant example of spiteful mischief. The loot consisted of items such as a silk gown, stays, knee buckles, and a hat. The British, it seemed, were looking for money for Morris noted in his list of damages sustained that locks and drawers were broken, and furniture destroyed. He added at the end of his list: "The above account of articles I affirm to have lost by the adherents of the King of Great Britain."

On December 11 it was the turn of Philip Moore. Again the British carried off only items such as clothing, silver buckles, watches, and a clock. No provisions. No cattle. No horses. Had the animals all been hidden? Had the American army successfully "requisitioned" them all? One wonders.

In the same December, William, a younger son of William Burns, landowner of Marple, and the brother of Joseph, was warned by the Radnor Monthly Meeting on account of "going out in the Militia a warrior." When Williams ignored their rebuke, they read a testimony against him. The discipline was justified on Quaker principles but it was nevertheless unfortunate. Tension grew. People met and voiced their anger and resentment.

War reaches into a community in various ways. Men go off to fight; crops and stock are seized by officers of both camps as food for their troops, and women try to manage the plow. The cost of war pressed down heavily and unexpectedly on the people of Marple and the surrounding area as they tried in vain to obtain a pardon in the fall of 1778 for their friend John Roberts.

In September 1777, before fleeing Philadelphia, Congress ordered the roundup of a group of influential Quakers suspected of anti-revolutionary sentiments. A guard was detailed to escort them into exile in Virginia where their voices would not be heard. John Roberts of Merion, an equally outspoken defender of the established order, feared for the general safety of his friends and for the possible effects such a journey might have on the ill and aged among them. In an effort to rescue them he turned to General Howe who was at the time marching across Chester County to take Philadelphia. Howe refused to act. Roberts, afraid for his own life because of his appeal to Howe, remained with the British and, willingly or unwillingly, acted as a guide to their foraging parties.

Tensions grew in the countryside through the winter of 1777-1778. When Howe pulled out of Philadelphia in June 1778 and the Americans regained control of their capital, the populous cried for vengeance. The declared Tories had prudently followed the British to New York. John Roberts, hoping to be allowed to return to his family, remained behind. The Executive Council of Pennsylvania ordered him seized. He and Abraham Carlisle of Philadelphia were charged with aiding and abetting the British, the then thoroughly hated enemy. The two men were tried for treason, convicted, and sentenced to death by hanging.

The sentence against Roberts brought the war home to the people of Chester and rural Philadelphia County in a sense that no other sentence could have. And it bound them together in protest: Victims of British foraging parties, men read out of meeting for behaving in a warrior like manner, and weighty Quakers committed to non-resistance joined in a swelling chorus of protest.

Over 400 of Roberts' friends and neighbors signed petitions fervently praying that the State would extend to him the benefit of a full, free, and general pardon. They did not question the fairness of the trial. But this

was a man who had "from his youth lived not only irreproachably but spent his whole Life in the performance of the Duties of a tender parent, a Faithful Friend, kind neighbor and useful citizen." They argued that his conduct "did not proceed from Malevolence and a wicked disposition," but that "the Prejudices & Attachments to the late Government were the Motives that induced him to act the part he did." They pointed out that he had voluntarily renounced his former connections: he had remained behind. The only purpose that his punishment would serve was that of an example to deter others from similar act. But considering "the present happy Prospect of public Affairs . . . in all Probability the British Enemy will never again visit this State." The people will not again be tempted to such "Mischief."

Prisoners taken on December 11, 1777 "when Lord Cornwallis, with an armed force, came a plundering," presented a special plea for mercy. They testified that Roberts "did his utmost endeavors to save us from that Rapacious hand." When any of us were taken prisoners, "he likewise used his utmost entreaty to have us liberated, and to procure us satisfaction as far as in his power for such of our property as was taken by the enemy."

Richard Sheldon of Marple submitted a petition on his own:

On November the 17th, 1777 I being taken prisoner by the Enemy, into Philadelphia New Jeal, I aplyd to John Roberts to Get my liberty within the Lines, which he interceded and went Bail for me, and I was set at Liberty, when in the Greatest Extremety of sickness.

I am informed he was very Kind and Charitable to the prisoners, in General.

Richard Sheldon

In spite of the petitions, the sentiments of the mob prevailed. John Roberts of Merion, miller, was hung on November 4, 1778 as a traitor, convicted of aiding the enemy. The names of those who signed the petitions in his behalf serve as a memorial to their concern and humanity in the presence of war and of all that war meant to them in their own lives.

The signers who can be identified as closely associated with Marple during this period include:

Joel Willis, formerly a tenant in Marple.

Dr. Jonathan Morris, Marple landowner and an active participant in the struggle for independence.

Thomas Courtney, weaver of Newtown but, also, landowner in Marple. (Courtney was born in Ireland.)

Joseph Pratt, carpenter of Edgmont but, also, a Marple landowner.

Captain Isaac Vanleer, son of Dr. Bernard Vanleer of Marple.

David Morris, weaver of Radnor and, also, formerly Marple landowner.

Isaac Burns of Marple, son of William Burns of Marple.

Elisha Worrall, a Marple landowner.

James Maris, cordwainer of Newtown and formerly a tenant in Marple.

John Morris, weaver of Marple and landowner there.

Philip Moore, Marple landowner, pillaged in December 1777.

Samuel Vanleer, of Nantmeal, landowner of Marple and former resident.

Lawrence Howear, Marple landowner.

Lewis Davis, Jr., son of Lewis Davis, Esquire, who was a former Marple landowner.

Henry Lawrence of Marple, landowner.

Edward Fell of Springfield, closely related to Marple families.

Seth Pancoast, joiner of Marple and Springfield.

John Woolley of Marple, tenant.

Branson Vanleer, a son of Dr. Bernard Vanleer.

James Worrall of Marple, landowner.

Richard Fawkes of Newtown, one time landowner in Marple.

Williams Burns, Sr., miller of Marple, landowner plundered by British.

Williams Burns, Jr., of Marple, read out of meeting for warrior like acts.

John Grim, tenant in Marple.

Michael Fimple, later of Marple, then of Haverford.

Alexander Oliver, formerly a tenant of Marple.

Mahlon Hall, son of Matthew, late of Marple.

Captain Hugh Jones of Marple, landowner.

Mordecai Lawrence of Marple, son of Henry, read out of meeting for warlike activity.

Hugh Lownes, landowner of Marple in right of his wife.

Edward Hughes, landholder in Marple.

John Bartram, Jr., landowner in Marple in right of his wife.

Joseph Powell, landowner of Marple.

Lewis Trimble, formerly resident of Marple, son of Henry Trimble, formerly a Marple landowner.

Robert Powell of Whiteland, formerly landowner and resident of Marple.

Peter Thomson of Philadelphia, formerly a Marple landowner, son of Peter of Marple.

Jesse Maris of Springfield, one time tenant in Marple.

John Maris, once of Marple.

We make heroes of the Marple residents who fought actively for the revolutionary cause: Dr. Jonathan Morris, Captain Hugh Jones, the sons of Benjamin Worrall, of Henry Lawrence, of William Burns, and others. We view with understanding the Quakers in the community who stood firmly by their peace testimony. There was a third group, the loyalists: the persons who worked to defeat the Revolution and who actively supported the British cause. None of the men of Marple, as it happens, were well-known loyalists. However, two sisters, Jane and Abigail, daughters

of Benjamin Rhoads of Marple, married men who took their commissions from the British army. Their stories help to balance our account of the impact of the war on Marple.

Jane Rhoads and her sister Abigail were daughters of Benjamin, one of the younger sons of Joseph Rhoads, the founder of the tannery and the first of a long line of Marple Rhoads'. Joseph died intestate in 1732. Benjamin died in 1742, aged twenty-two, before his father's estate was partitioned. Catharine, his widow, remarried in 1745 and removed with her daughters to live with her new husband, James Treviller. The 82 acres in Marple, inherited by Jane and Abigail in right of their father's share in the estate of Joseph, was rented out until the daughters came of age. Then, in May 1762 it was sold at public vendue to James Rhoads of Marple, younger brother of Benjamin and owner of the tannery at that time.

In 1760 Abigail Rhoads and John Rankin were married at Newberry Meeting, York County. In 1762 Jane Rhoads, "then wife of William Rankin," was complained of by the Warrington Monthly Meeting, York County, for marrying out of meeting. In January of the following year, a committee was appointed by the meeting to treat with her. However, on finding that she was not duly repentent, a testimony against her was prepared and read to the meeting that May. Jane did not acknowledge her breach of discipline and come under the care of the meeting again until 1779, after the war began.

During the Revolution the Rankins "knowingly and willingly aided and assisted the enemies of the State of Pennsylvania and of the United States of America and joined their armies." William and John were both declared traitors, their estates were confiscated and sold. In July 1780 Abigail Rankin notified the Warrington Monthly Meeting that she had received "an order from those in power to prepare for banishment within the British lines." She requested a certificate of removal from the meeting. Her case was considered, and it was decided that her plight demanded the sympathy and concern of Friends. A committee was appointed to offer her advice and assistance, and a certificate, attesting to her membership in the Society, was prepared. Several months later she left York County to join her husband John in Long Island.

In 1783 John Rankin was one of three Pennsylvania Quakers who took the leadership in establishing a Quaker colony at Pennfield, New Brunswick, under British rule. In March 1790, desirous of returning home, John petitioned the Supreme Council of Pennsylvania to grant him a pardon and to restore him to his rights as a citizen of that state. His petition was granted and the family returned to York County. In August 1790 Abigail requested a certificate for herself and her children Rhoads, Ann, and Rebecca to Goshen Monthly Meeting. In 1791 a certificate for the entire family including John was signed by the meeting.

The experiences of Jane were sometimes similar to those of her sister. In 1781 William Rankin, husband of Jane, was apprehended as a traitor by the American forces and placed in the prison at York to face charges. He escaped from the prison and fled. Jane, it seems, remained in York

County for she requested a certificate of removal from Warrington Monthly Meeting to settle with her husband in London in 1785. A sympathetic meeting prepared her certificate. Three letters written by Jane to Henry Lawrence of Marple, husband of her cousin Hannah (Massey) Lawrence have survived: one written just after her arrival in Ireland and two written from London where her husband was seeking compensation for losses suffered in defense of the British cause. These letters speak more truly and eloquently than we can of her longing for news from home and the problems faced by loyalists in London during this period.

In 1794 Jane, widow of William Rankin, of London Grove Township married Joseph Walker of Tredyffrin at New Garden Meeting, and removed with her children to Joseph Walker's home in Tredyffrin. Jane died in March of 1813 of a stroke when returning home from a visit with her step-son Issac Walker.

September ye 30 1785

Deer Cousens After my love to you these come to let you no we are in health at preasent but my husband and polly They are but poorly as polly has not been hardy since she left the Capes of Delaware which was the 17 day of July and had an Exceeding pleasent passage as I ever could expect in an age The Captain say'd he had crossed the seas 27 times and he never saw such a passage We sat at table and ate our vittuels as if at home till two or three days of the last week before we arrived in Cape clere in Iarland which was 14 day of August and we lay in Cork passage till the 31 of the same mo'th and that night we came out we had a smart storm which lasted all night and next day till toward noon the night being very dark and we not so clere on land as could be desired We had like to have been cast away The time seemed dredfull The Irish channel is a bad passage to Liverpool whare we safly arived on the 3 day of september whare my husband came on board before we landed which was a Joyfull site to us and we soon left the ship and we have lived here ever since till now and tomorrow we intend to set off for to go to London to live til we get our business settled which he makes now doubt but he will be paid for his estate as soon as his turn comes as they have begun to pay the loyalists So as I have not seen much of this country, I cannot say much but hope to be able to give a fuller account in my next as I intend to wright often and hope you will do so by me and direct to William Rankin London Queen Street 10 Ho No 8 and make no doubt but we will receive them and If needfull to alter the superscription I shall let you no how I find freindly people here so that I could live here prety well contented if it suited other ways and none more pleased than I shall be if I should have ye pleasure to see one of my friends in this Country as I think it looks unlikely I shall cross the seas again tho I may There is nothing imposseble Tell Cousin Massey Abigail says she wants to come back to America and if she does not get better contented I think she will after a while but I want her to see the Country and if she or any other weakly person should have to go to sea for health let them not offer to go a long voyage for it is a dreadful thing to be sick at sea and far from land tho we

were none of us vary sick any time but little polly I thought she would have hardly a heald it to reach there I my self was but poorly all the way but the smothness of the passage made it easaer whith me The rest mostly harty except a few hours at first Not much to wright I conclude whith our loves to you and your children as if named I long to here from my dear Cousin Massey as she was so weakly.

from your Cousin Jane Rankin

To Henry and Hannah Larrance

if thee wright derete to William Rankin London
queen street 10 ho no 8 and no doubt but we will get them

* * * *

August ye 9 1786

Dear Cousens I take this opportunity to let you no we are all in good health at present hoping these may find you all in the same Jane received Masseys letter no 1 in which we ware glad to hear you ware all well but she dos not tell how old aunt bettey is or where she is and she says thee began to wright to us but I would have been glad thee had afinished it and sent it It seems long since had heard from you I hope that wont be the last of it I expect thee will try it again and finish it for I expect thee to give me an estimable account how you do—whether better than it was some time agon in publick affairs Will'm has not got his hearing for his claim yet but Captain Branson James Rankin Doc'r Norris has had theres in time to receive satisfaction this summer in part as they dont pay none there full claim at first so having nothing strang to wright that I remember I conclude with our loves to thee and wife and family and remain your Cousen

Jane Rankin

I am still in hopes of going to some part of America but not to Scotia Do'ct Norris desires to be remembered to you all

* * * *

To Henry Larrance Sen
living in Marpool Township
Chester County
Pennsylvany

* * * *

Dear Cousens These comes to let you know we are all in health at present hoping these may find you in the same We expect to leve England in two mo'ths to go to Canada I think We have not heard from you I think twelve mo'ths but one letter from Massey informing us of your health which we were glad to hear of I thought the letter but short but it was much better than none I am afraid my friends have partly forgot me However I have not forgot them nor I think I never shall When I

come to be settled I intend to wright a full account as I find the place Jesse Larrance arrived here the 5 of November I may say stark naked as to any clothes he had on of his and but two pence in his pocket You would have thought no man in his senses would have thought of doing so He says he was robbed on Sables Iland by the New Englanders and then went to Governor Par and got a letter from him to the Governor of Boston which he delivered but could get no redress there Then he resolved to try England so he was so unfortunate as to find a captain of a ship who brought him passage free over here on the forecassel without the scrape of a pan from any body but on his own word and it must be thought he will go as same and I no not what would have become of him had we have been gone from here but undoubtedly he must have beged or perrished in the streets However light he may think of it He is petitioning the government for some assistance to help him back but whether he will get any or not we dont no or what he will do for it is very hard for allmost any body It requires good friends to get in any business to make a very bare living here My pen is so bad I must conclud with our loves to thee and Cousin Hannah Massey and Becke and all the rest of your children as if named and to boath Aunt Bettys to Joseph and Mary Rhoads and all enquiring friends hoping we may see some of your children in Canada if it would be agreable to them We hear that there still continues to be a great dale of confusion in some of the states which must make it very hard and disagreeable for sober people to live to there minds as once ye could have done I believe I have no news in particular at this time J Rankin and family are well Dr Norris is well Captain Branson and family are all well and intends to go with us

Wil'm and Jane Rankin

February ye 6 1788

"Letters from Jane Rankin-London, to Henry Lawrance, Marple." Manuscript numbers 31261 thru 31263. Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

Chapter 13

THE RETURNS OF 1783

The Returns of 1783

Newly established nations need to take stock. In 1085 William the Conqueror (William I of England) sent his commissioners through his kingdom to gather information on landholding, wealth, and taxes paid. In February 1783, the Congress of the newly established United States of America resolved that each state should compile a true and accurate account of: (1) the several quantities of land in each township or district, granted to or surveyed for any person; (2) the number of buildings thereon, distinguishing dwelling houses from other buildings; and (3) the number of its inhabitants. The information was to be transmitted to Congress by March 1784. In compliance, the Pennsylvania legislature ordered the tax assessors to gather the information necessary at the same time they gathered data on the inhabitants and their taxable wealth for the purpose of levying the Federal Supplies Tax of 1783.

The data collected for King William filled two large volumes known today as the Domesday Books. They provide a detailed description of England at the time of the Norman Conquest. The 1783 Returns for Marple which combined the data needed by the Congress with that necessary for the levying of the federal tax provide a valuable resource for a single township. These are the people who lived and worked in Marple in the year of the first centennial. These are the people who could look back over the years of settlement, of growth and development, of change, and of revolution. They are also the people who in 1783 could see in the Peace of Paris the end of British rule and the beginning of a new nation. And they are a group of very ordinary people, very similar to those who celebrated the tri-centennial of Marple.

These Returns require some explanation. Pages one and two list the "Inhabitants" or householders of the townships. There are persons of three types: (1) landowners, (2) members of their families who held land by agreements worked out within the family, (3) tenants who held the land on a rent determined by the market. The number of acres listed in the first column of these first two pages are the number of acres on which the individual was taxed, not acres owned or acres occupied. Tenants, as occupiers, generally paid the taxes on the land they rented. Landowners or tenants holding properties which extended across township lines were taxed only on the acres, buildings, and stock located in Marple. Thomas Courtney, for instance, was taxed in Marple for 30 acres only, the main part of his farm began in Newtown.

The entries under the heading "Bound Servants" indicate the number of indentured servants over fourteen years of age and the number of years each must still serve. "Negroes and Mulattoes" are slaves over twelve years of age. Horses, mares and cattle are all over three years of

age; young stock was not taxed. Riding chairs are light chaises or carriages drawn by one horse. Caravans are heavier carriages or carts and are usually covered or enclosed. They are, however, not just farm carts. By 1783 most farmers had a farm cart or even two carts.

Non-householders are listed on the third page. They are persons who were attached either to the household (who lived in the house) or to the houseful (who lived on the premises) of the householders: (1) free laborers or craftsmen in the hire of the householder and receiving housing as part of the agreement; (2) lodgers included in the household but not in the service of the householder. They appeared on the tax lists under the headings: "Inmates" and "Freemen." The distinction was primarily one of marital status: Freemen were single men and were subject to a head tax; inmates were married or widowed heads of families and were subject to a tax on personal wealth.

| List of the Taxable Inhabitants in Morris | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Inhabitants | Value of Land | Value of Personal Property | Value of Real Estate | Value of Personal Property | Value of Real Estate | Value of Personal Property | Value of Real Estate | Value of Personal Property | Value of Real Estate | Value of Personal Property | Value of Real Estate | Value of Personal Property | Value of Real Estate |
| Names | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William Barnes | 82 | 100 | 3 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. |
| Isaac Barnes | 64 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| Willm. Bolton | 100 | .. | 2 | 3 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| John Cook | 20 | .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| John Cameron | 40 | .. | 1 | 1 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. |
| John Conaway | 80 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Henry Coffey | 150 | 100 | 3 | 4 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 4 | .. |
| John Evans | 110 | .. | 3 | 4 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | 9 | .. |
| Jacob Hinkle | 15 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 6 | .. |
| Lawrence Hensley | 100 | .. | 3 | 4 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | 6 | .. |
| Mathew Hildner | 100 | .. | 3 | 3 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 9 | .. |
| Lewis Hall | 188 | .. | 3 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 6 | .. |
| Hugh Jones | 150 | 150 | 4 | 6 | 10 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 8 | .. |
| Charles Kony | 181 | .. | 4 | 3 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | .. |
| Henry Lawrence | 271 | .. | 5 | 6 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 11 | .. |
| Angerick Leach | 6 | .. | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | .. |
| John Lewis | 30 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Richard Lewis | 120 | .. | 2 | 3 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 18 | .. |
| John Morris | 146 | .. | 3 | 6 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 10 | .. |
| Marion Morris | 127 | .. | 3 | 3 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| Jonathan Morris | 200 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 3 | 10 | 2 |
| Phillip Moore | 230 | .. | 3 | 3 | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 9 | .. |
| William Major | 111 | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 7 | .. |
| James Morris | 240 | .. | 4 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| David Harris | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | .. |
| Harmon Ogden | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | .. |
| Joseph Brown | 15 | .. | 2 | 3 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 7 | .. |
| George Brown | 25 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 7 | .. |
| John Brown | 100 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | .. |
| James Brown | 88 | .. | 4 | 10 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| David Brown | 175 | .. | 4 | 6 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 7 | .. |
| Charles Brown | .. | 100 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. |
| James Brown | 100 | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 4 | .. |
| James Brown | 110 | .. | 2 | 3 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. |
| Joseph Brown | 160 | .. | 4 | 3 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 8 | .. |
| David Brown | 100 | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 6 | .. |

A List of the Taxable Inhabitants of Haverhill.

| Inhabitants | Names | Assessors | Real Estate | Personal Estate | Profits of Office | Profits of Trade | Profits of Industry | Profits of Commerce | Profits of Agriculture | Profits of Fishing | Profits of Hunting | Profits of Mining | Profits of Manufacturing | Profits of Transportation | Profits of Other | Profits of Unknown |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Isaac Rogers | 50 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. |
| Joseph Shillborn | 100 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 1 | .. |
| Nathaniel S. Loomis | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. |
| William S. Rogers | 130 | .. | .. | 5 | 4 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 8 | .. |
| Benjamin Rogers | 55 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 4 | .. |
| Wm. Merrill | 50 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | 2 | .. |
| James Merrill, Junr | 47 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 9 | .. |
| Jacob Nisior | 80 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. |
| John Merrill | 85 | .. | .. | 2 | 3 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | .. | .. |
| Ben Merrill | 70 | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 5 | .. |
| Saml Merrill | 60 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Joseph Merrill | 32 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Benjamin Merrill | 185 | .. | .. | 5 | 7 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 7 | .. |
| Oliver Merrill | 572 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. |
| William Merrill | 55 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| James Merrill | 60 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 7 | .. | .. |
| Samuel Merrill | 210 | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 16 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 9 | .. |
| Samuel Merrill | 130 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| Samuel Merrill | 100 | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 5 | .. |
| Joseph Merrill | 170 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| John Merrill | 60 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 8 | .. |
| William Merrill | 10 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| James Merrill | 5 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. |
| John Merrill | 25 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 6 | .. | .. |
| John Merrill | 29 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

1) Immatis in Harte

| Name | Cherry Lane | Dunsmuir | Ayer's Gulch | Brown St. Clair | Herring Creek | Sage | River House | Pike | Star Hill | Camp Grove | Twining Spur | John Brown | Mills Co. Landing | Alford D.C. | Harlow & Co. Washington |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Charles Bayly | " | " | " | " | / | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 1 | " | " |
| James Brackley | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 8 | " | " |
| Arthur Ellis | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " |
| Levi Cunningham | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 5 | " | farmer |
| John Pennell | " | " | " | " | / | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | miner |
| William Queen | " | " | " | " | 3 | " | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | 3 | " | farmer |
| Mary Ellis | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 4 | " | " |
| John John | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 5 | " | miner |
| John Harwood | " | " | " | 1 | 1 | " | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | 6 | " | " |
| Daniel Norvall | " | " | " | 2 | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 3 | " | farmer |
| Joseph Tuley | " | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | 2 | " | farmer |
| Henry Deinger | " | " | " | 1 | 1 | 2 | " | " | " | " | " | " | 8 | " | farmer |
| Sarah George | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 1 | " | " | 5 | " | " |
| Collins McElstere | " | " | " | 1 | 1 | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | 4 | 1 | miner |

Free & Men in Purple

[illegible]

Chapter 14

**EXCERPTS FROM THE
PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE**

This is to give notice that there is to be sold by JOSEPH PARSON, 100 acres of land, with a dwelling house, springhouse, and a large young orchard, in Marple Township, Chester County, about 6 miles from Darby, on Conestoga Road; the place is very fit for a storekeeper. Any persons inclining to purchase it may apply to Joseph Parsons, near Chester, or Robert Pearson near the said place, have it at a reasonable price.

JOSEPH PARSON

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 2, 1743)

Jan. 21, 1745/6

Run away on 8th inst. from the subscriber in Marple twp, Chester Co., an English servant name, named WM MORGAN, aged 29, middle stature, black, swarthy complexion, full mouth, buck teeth, is very apt to laugh at his own discourse and can talk the Welsh language. Had on when he went away an old felt hat & worsted cap, a homespun brown coat with flat carved metal buttons, a jacket much of the same colour with brass buttons, old buckskin breeches, old light coloured yarn stockings & half worn shoes, but had boots and may wear them. 40 shillings and charges.

N.B. Tis supposed that he is either gone over Brandywine or into West Jersey & has a former Indenture with him by which he may appear to be a freeman but has been since bound by another.

Henry Fagan

(Jan. 21, 1745/6)

The 14th of the 7th mot. 1748 Receved of Rebecca Massey the sum of two pounds for Mordecai Massey coffin. I say receved by me James Bartram.

EVANS, SAMUEL

Run away from Samuel Evans of Marple, a native Irish servant, (on 4th inst.), named PETER CONNOLLY, about 29 yrs., middle stature, brown complexion, brown short hair, blemish in right eye by the poak of a cow's horn . . . "Had on a half worn felt hat, light coloured jacket, too short, with metal buttons and a pair of trowsers, his shoes too large for him and one of them has a cut in the upper leather near the toe." 20 shillings and costs.

SAMUEL EVANS

(Pennsylvania Gazette, June 11, 1747)

Runaway on the 28th inst. from Benjamin Weatherby of Marple twp., Ch. Co., a native Irish servant man named JOHN McNEAL, alias O'Neal, about 24 yrs. of age, pale complexion, thin visage, has the brogue on his tongue, has a lump on the nuckle of one of his forefingers. Had on a half worn racoon hat, searsucker cap, 2 shirts, one check, the other white, 3 jackets, one a blue double-breasted, with brass buttons that has an impression of a man's head on them, one linen double-breasted one striped flannel, 2 pr of old trowsers, blue ribb's stocking, old shoes ty'd with strings. Also took with him a lightish coloured great coat, almost new, a light sorrel horse, with a broad, bald face, whitish mane and tail, white feet, paces middling well, an old hunting saddle and bridle, part of the cropper new, a hunting horsewhip with a long lash, he served sometime in Talbot, in Md. . . . 40 shillings and reasonable charges.

BENJAMIN WEATHERBY

(Pennsylvania Gazette, July 6, 1749)

Containing 227 acres of good land, joining on Darby Creek, about half thereof cleared, with a good stone house, frame barn, stables and other out houses, and an orchard, about 40 acres of meadow, already cleared, the greatest part upland, well watered and considerable more may be made. Any person inclining to purchase, may apply to the subscriber hereof, living in Newtown, in County aforesaid, and know the terms. The title indisputable.

JOHN MORRIS

(Pennsylvania Gazette, March 19, 1750/1)

To be sold on the 26th inst. by the subscriber hereof, a plantation, situate in Marple Township, containing 227 acres, near 40 acres of the same is good meadow, and a considerable deal more may be made, if occasion requires, a good stone house and barn, and other out houses, 12 miles from Philadelphia, convenient to several mills, by me JOHN MORRIS living on the said plantation.

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Oct. 11, 1750)

HENRY LAWRENCE

Run away on the 23rd inst from Henry Lawrence, of Marple twp., Ch. Co., a servant man named JOHN DOUGHERTY, of middle stature, swarthy complexion, a weaver by trade; Had on when he went away, an old hat, linnen cap, darkish colour'd cloth coat, with har buttons, one button of a different sort, new ozenbrigs shirt and trowsers, brown yard stockings and old shoes; he has a large scar on his forehead, and the skin of his hands is much cracked. 30 shillings and costs.

HENRY LAWRENCE

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Aug. 1, 1751)

December 11th, 1753

Run away this morning from John Morris of Newtown in Chester County, tavern keeper, a Welsh servant man named ROBERT JONES, about 24 years of age, a pretty lusty fellow, about 5 feet 10 inches high, pretends to be something of a taylor, has pretty long, strait black hair, of a fair complexion and little beard. Had on when he went away, an old home-made cloth coat of a lightish lead colour, lined with worsted, with a hole burnt in one of the cuffs, light coloured cloth jacket without sleavels, lined with lightish coloured sheloon, pretty good buckskin breeches, an old beaver hat, an ozenbrig shirt, brown yard stockings, & strong shoes, but something worn, with buckles. Whoever take up and secures said servant so that his master may have him again shall have 30 shillings reward & reasonable charges paid by JOHN MORRIS.

N.E. The said servant has run away several times before and is something subject to take with him more than is lawful and may perhaps change his clothing if he finds an opportunity.

Notice is hereby given to all persons who have any demands against ABEL JANNEY sometimes since of Marple twp in Co. of Ch., debts contracted before the 23rd day of Sept. 1758, that they make the same known to the subscribers, on or before the 1st day of December next, at which sd day, they are desired to meet at the house of John Rudolph in Darby, in Ch. Co. afsd, to the end that equitable distribution of the money raised by the sale of his estate may be made to and amongst his creditors. Attendance will be given on the day afsd at the place afsd by Isaac Pearson and John Smith. Assignees in Trust for the sd creditors.

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Nov. 6, 1760)

On the seventeenth of May next will be sold by Public Vendue, on the premises a valuable plantation, situated in Marple Township, Chester County, containing 82 acres, one half cleared, a considerable Quantity of meadow, and more may be made, Part of which is watered by a large stream; a good dwelling house with a cellar under the whole. It lies in a Square between two public roads, one leading from Conestogoe Road to Darby and Chester, about twelve miles from Philadelphia; likewise about 100 bearing Apple trees with a large spring near the house and a shop suitable for a tradesman.

JANE RHOADS

Pennsylvania Gazette, April 29, 1762)

Stolen, on the 6th instant, out of House of MATTHEW HALL of Marple Township a silver watch with a silver chain, some of the links of which have been broken and mended with brass wire, Maker's names Reeves, London; it is supposed taken "by one who goes by name John Hall, a seafaring man, of middle stature, and has a scar on his right cheek; Had on a blue sailor's jacket, lined with white flannel, old castor hat, long trowsers, a pair of pumps; it is thought he is gone towards Boston." 3 £ reward

MATTHEW HALL

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Aug. 11, 1763)

Stolen out of stable yard from subscribers's plantation in Marple, light bay saddle horse, 6 yrs. last spring, her two hind feet white, her mane parts near middle, white in her face and a little of that which is called silver eye in one or both eyes, branded on near shoulder M H, paces well . . . 5 £ reward. Theif supposed to be John Hall.

MATTHEW HALL

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 9, 1764)

A very valuable plantation or tract of land containing 190 odd acres about 70 or 80 acres of woodland, the rest cleared, situated in Marple Township, Chester County 150 acres in Marple and 42 acres in Haverford, 12 miles from the City of Philadelphia, very convenient to Mills and Meetinghouses, viz., Quaker, Presbyterian, and to churches; also to Market. There is on it 30 acres of mowable meadow, that produces a great deal of Hay, and more may be made; it would be needless to give it dung, as it is very rich bottom, with two runs of water for its use. Darby Creek runs 180 rods through said place where water works may be erected. There is a stone dwelling house with four fireplaces in it, cellar, kitchen, a large frame barn, stables, cow houses and barrack; with a never failing spring of good water near the door, and a stone house over it, and an orchard; all in good repair, perfectly situated on a public road, leading from the country to Philadelphia; the upland good for grain and grass, many springs of water on said place. For terms of sale, enquire LAWRENCE HOWARD, living on the premises, who will make a good title to purchaser; they may enter on the place this next spring.

LAWRENCE HOWARD

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 14, 1765)

For sale, good plantation "containing 142 acres, about 50 woodland, the rest cleared, situated in twp of Up. Providence, CH. Co., 14 miles from the City of Phila., convenient to market; there is on it a stone dwelling house with 5 fireplaces in it, cellars, kitchen, a good barn, stable, cow-house, a spring of good water, and a stone house over it, a good orchard, all in good repair, pleasantly situated on a public road, leading from several parts of the country to Phila., also to most places of worship, there is on it about 20 acres of good meadow, with plenty of water for the whole, the plow land is good for grain or grass. There is Also to be sold a plantation whereon the subscriber lives in Marple"... 192 acres... stone dwelling... 4 fireplaces, cellar, kitchen, large frame barn, spring with house, plenty of water for a grist mill... etc... (See other notes)

LAWRENCE HOWARD

(*Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 5, 1767)

A good plantation... Containing 52 acres, situated in Marple Chester Co., about 10 miles from Phila., 10 acres of which are good watered meadow, watered by a large stream; the woodland well timbered, and the cleared land well watered; there is a Mineral Spring on the land, with a house and bar, and the purchaser may enter immediately. Likewise one other piece of good land, containing 100 acres, situated in Newtown, being one half woodland, well timbered, and the clear land well watered, some meadow made and watered, and more may be made, and watered with a large stream. The above pieces of land join each other. Anyone inclining to purchase, may be informed as to the terms and title, by the subscriber, living near the premises.

RICHARD FAWKES

(*Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 5, 1767)

To be sold by subscriber, plantation and 2 tracts, Marple, one of 251 acres, "40 acres whereof is good watered meadow and as much more may be made, on this tract is erected a large stone dwelling house and frame barn. The other tract contains 100 acres, 6 acres whereof is good meadow and the remainder woodland, on this tract also is erected a frame house and barn"... apply subscriber, living on premises.

JOSHUA PENNELL

(*Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 5, 1768)

Sher. Sale. 25th July, at Daniel Thompson's Tavern, Up. Prov., messuage and 158 acres, Marple Twp., bounded by Cadwalader Evans, Hannah Pennell and Crum Creeek, large quantity of good meadow, good house and barn and other conveniences... Est. of JOSHUA PENNELL, JR., seized in execution.

(*Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 7, 1768)

To be sold, Sept. 15th at house of JOSHUA PENNELL, JR. "valuable plantation, situated in the twp. of Marple, Co. of Chester, within 8 miles of Chester, and 12 of Phila., containing 251 acres of good land with a good stone dwelling house, 2 rooms on a floor, and 2 large cellars under it, a large frame barn, stable and outhouses springhouse and draw-well, near the door, an orchard, bearing good fruit, with about 30 or 40 acres of good meadow, well watered, and as much more may be made; about 90 acres cleared of good tillable land, the rest well timbered, The sale to begin at 2 o'clock, sd day, in the afternoon, where due attendance will be given by JOSHUA PENNELL, JR.

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Aug. 18, 1768)

LAWRENCE HOWARD

Run away from Subscriber, living in Marple twp, Ch. Co. on 20 of Sept. inst., an Irish servant man, named MICHAEL LINC, speaks broken English, and stammers a little in his speech, about 28 or 30 yrs of age, a well set fellow, about 5 ft. 4 or 5" high, of a darkish complexion, dark brown hair, cut short on the top of his head: Had on, when he went away, a new brown jacket, of home-made cloth, with metal buttons on it, with an old striped under linsey jacket, a felt hat with white linen lining in it, one ozenbrig shirt, buckskin breeches, patched in the fork, with metal buttons on them, brown stockings, a pair of soaled shoes, and being too long for him were cut behind, and the quarters stitched with leather thongs, they were tied with string. . . .

Lawrence Howard

Sept. 29, 1773

FIVE POUND REWARD

Stolen out of the stable of the subscriber, in Marple Township, Chester County, in the evening of the 3rd day of this instant March, a dark bay gelding, near 8 years old, 14½ high, having a remarkably hollow face, from the end of his nose to the eyes, with some white hairs in his forehead, and one hind foot white, is of good courage, lately trimmed, paces and trots, but inclines most to pacing. Whoever takes up the said gelding and thief, so as the thief may be brought to justice, shall be entitled to the above reward, or otherwise of securing the gelding, so as the owner may have him again, Three Pounds, and for apprehending the thief 40 shillings paid by

SAMUEL PANCOAST

N.B. There was stolen the same evening, from William Quin in the neighborhood, a dark bay gelding, nearly the same size, a natural trotter.

March 5, 1774

(Pennsylvania Gazette, March 9, 1774)

FOR SALE

That valuable plantation formerly property of HUGH JONES, in the township of Marple, Delaware County, state of Pennsylvania, on the main road leading from Philadelphia to West Chester, near the 9 Mile stone, containing 107 acres of land of the first quality, in a good state of cultivation, all under good fence, conveniently divided into lots and well set with grass; there are on the premises a good stone dwelling house, a stone springhouse over a never fail spring of good water, a good frame barn, cellared under, two good apple orchards with a number of cherry, pear, peach and other fruit trees, 7 acres of watered meadow and 28 acres woodland. Sept. 19, 1810.

BENJAMIN YARD

(Pennsylvania Gazette, Sept. 19, 1810)

